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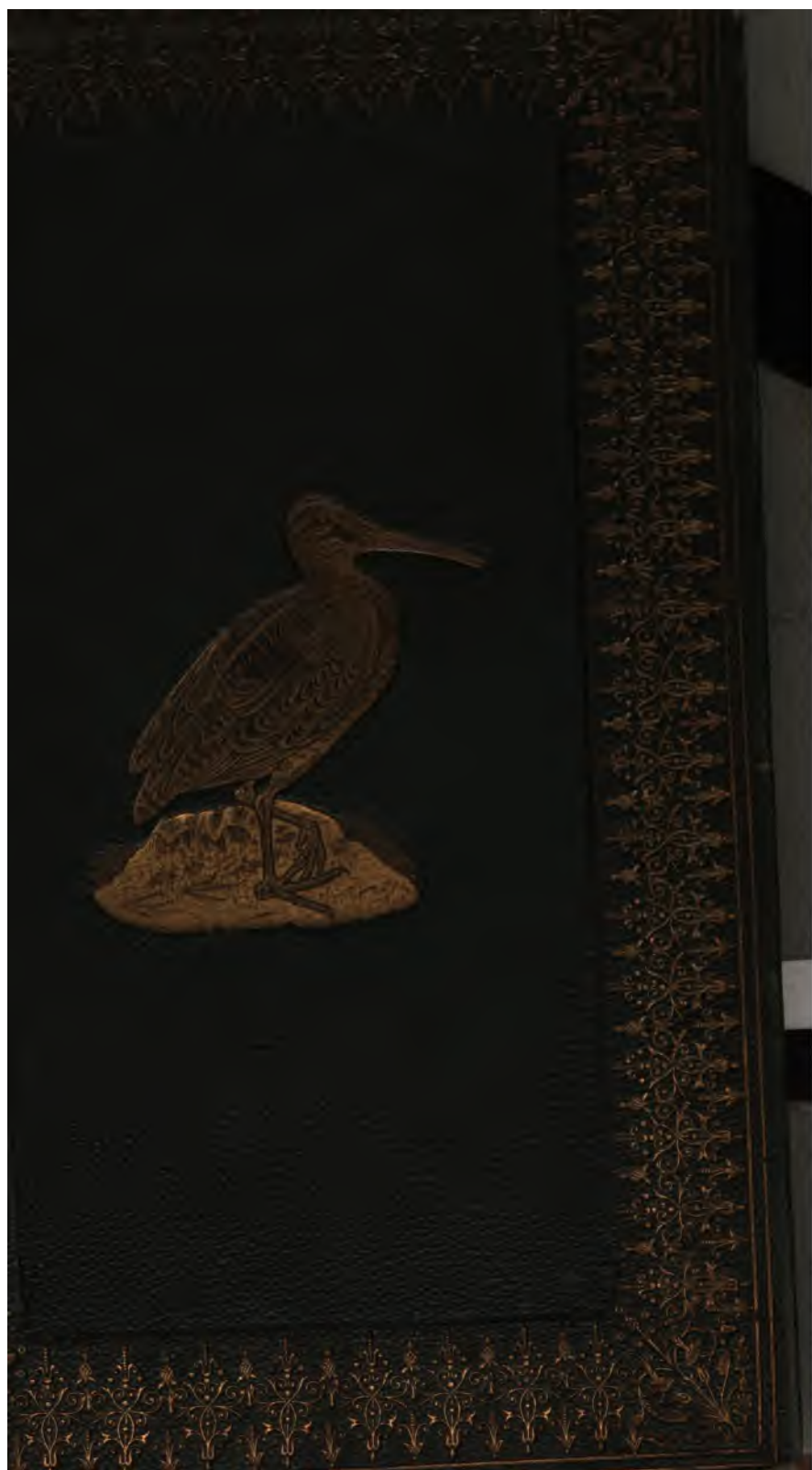
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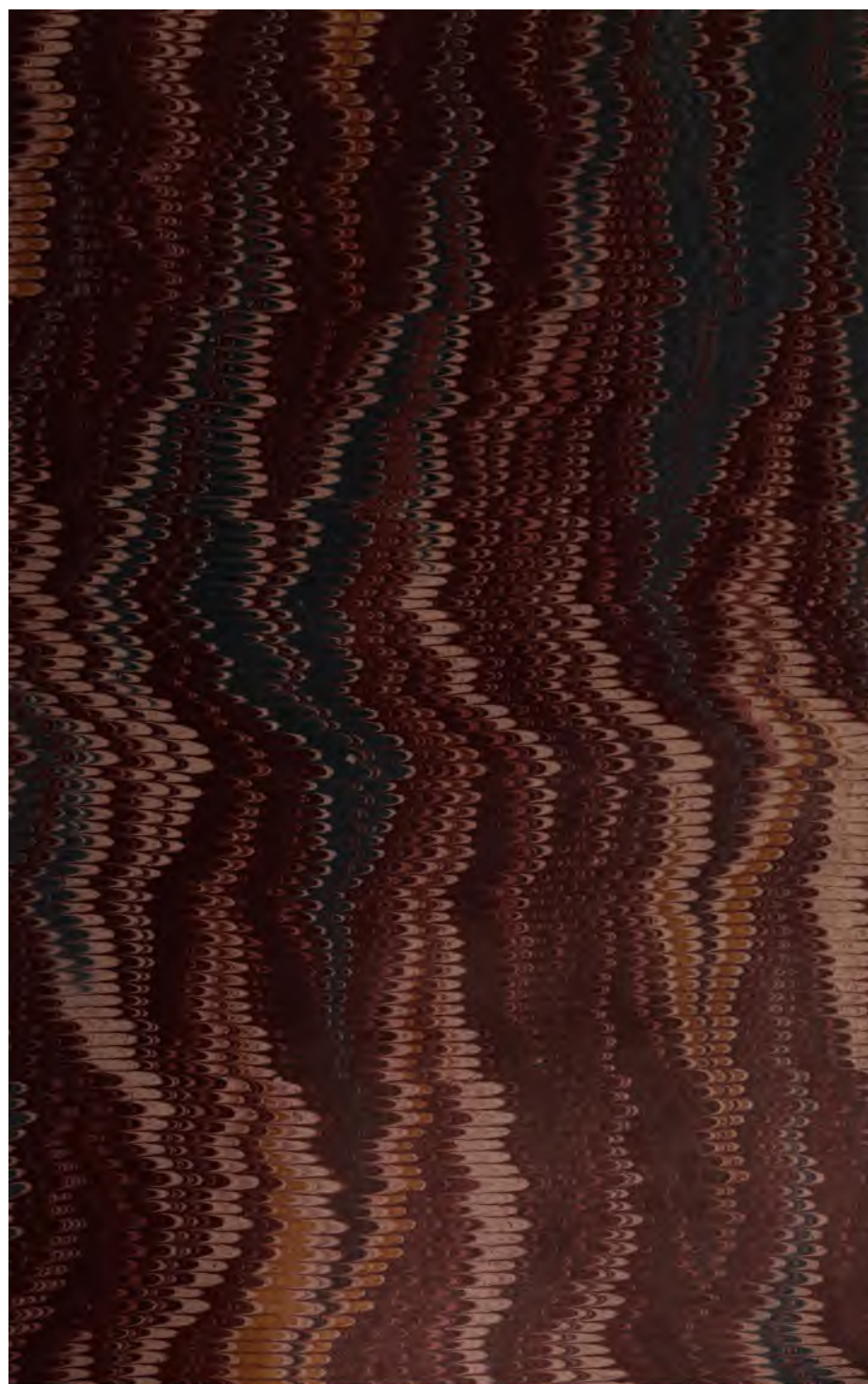
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*V.*

Miss Henley  
with the Author's friend Mr  
June 1868.

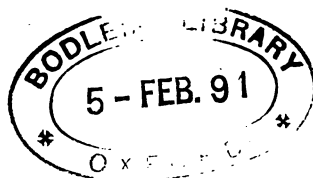


BRITISH BIRDS:  
THEIR  
HAUNTS AND HABITS.



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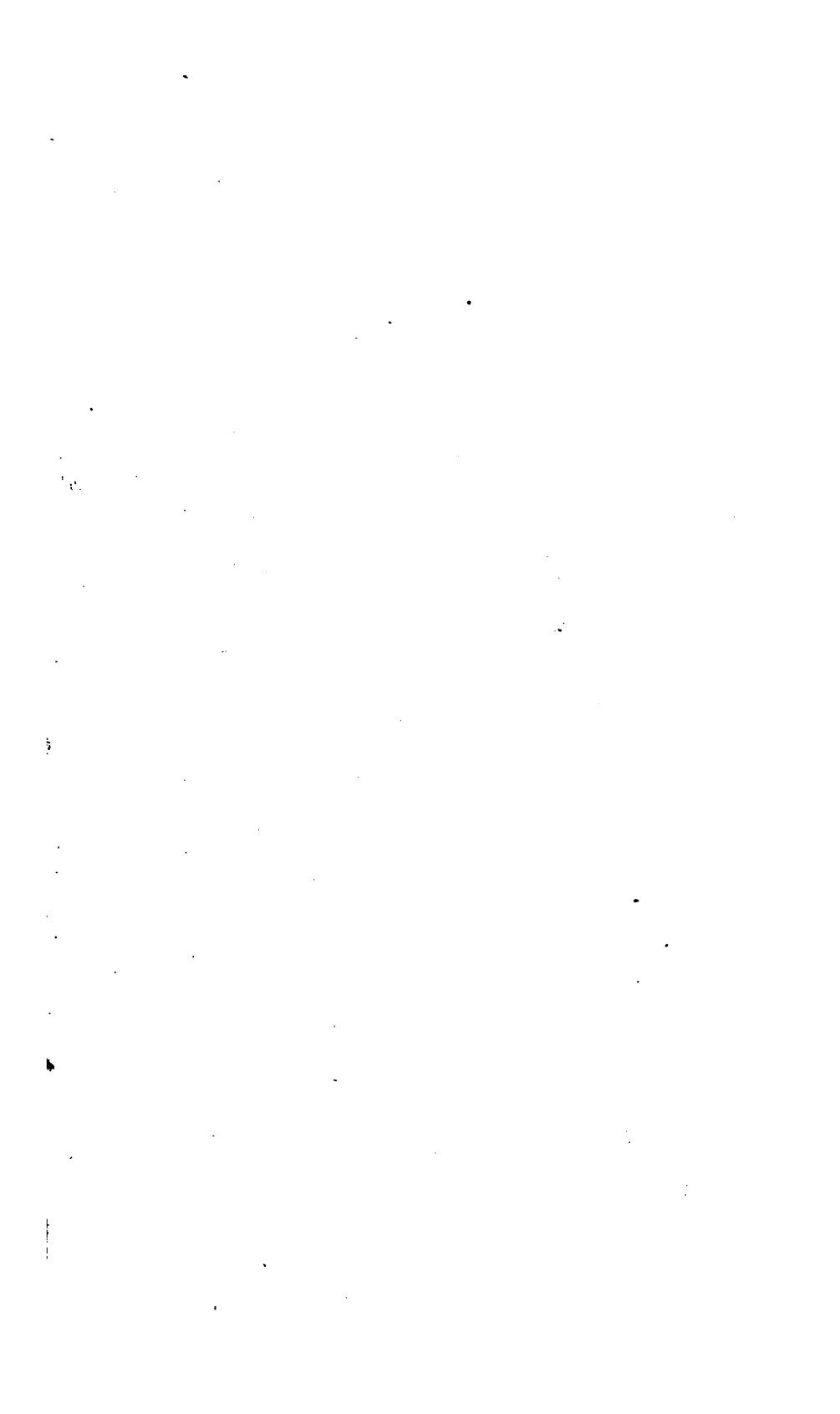
## P R E F A C E.

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THE Compiler of the following work, having devoted a considerable portion of his leisure hours to the study of Ornithology, has collected a variety of facts relating to several interesting specimens of the feathered tribe, the publication of which he trusts may be useful and entertaining to those who, like himself, take pleasure in this branch of natural history.

The present collection lays no claim to originality, but the information it contains is derived from a variety of sources not always perhaps accessible to the majority of readers, and will, it is hoped, be found both copious and convenient. The alphabetical arrangement of the specimens will enable any one who may have recourse to it as a Book of Reference to find at once what he may wish to consult.

Should this little volume, not only prove a source of gratification to any who delight in the beauty and variety of Nature, but be regarded as an expression of friendship, the labour bestowed upon it will be amply compensated.



## ACCENTOR, ALPINE.

ACCENTOR ALPINUS, *Temm.*

THIS Bird, though larger than the Hedge Accentor (or, as it is more commonly called, the Hedge Sparrow), somewhat resembles that species in its general appearance, except that its throat is mottled with black and white. There are but three or four recorded instances of the capture of this species in Great Britain; but it is not uncommon in France and Germany and in other parts of Europe, where it breeds, making its nest among stones or in the cavities of rocks, &c. The nest is composed of moss and wool lined with hair, and the eggs, usually four or five, are of a pale blue colour.

The habits of the Alpine Accentor differ in some respects from those of the Hedge Accentor. It seldom perches on trees or hedges, but frequents the higher mountainous districts in summer, seeking shelter, however, in the valleys during winter.

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## ACCENTOR, HEDGE.

HEDGE SPARROW.

ACCENTOR MODULARIS, *Temm.*

This species is very abundant throughout this country, in which it may be said to be a permanent

resident. It is also found in summer as far north as Sweden, but it returns southward on the approach of winter, drawing near villages or farm houses for protection during the severity of the season. It procures its food about the doors and sinks, where crumbs and small remnants of food are thrown, or gleans a supply from the stack yard. They begin to pair about the beginning of February, after which they retire to the woods and hedges, and other situations more remote from the habitations of man. The nest is generally built in a well trimmed hedge, thick evergreen, &c. and the eggs, four or five in number, are of a fine clear greenish blue. The nest, which the Hedge Accentor constructs with so much care and industry, is frequently appropriated by the Cuckoo wherein to deposit her egg.

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## A U K, G R E A T.

*ALCA IMPENNIS, Lin.*

This singular-looking bird, which measured from two to three feet in length, and had a body about the size of a goose, is now generally supposed to be extinct, as for some years no specimen is known to have been taken in any part of the world. It was formerly found, though in no great numbers, in Sweden, Norway, Greenland, and other northern countries, and was frequently captured in Great

Britain and Ireland, the last recorded instance being that of one taken off the coast of the County of Waterford, and preserved in the collection of Dr. Birkitt of Waterford. It is also said to have bred on the island of Saint Kilda, appearing about the beginning of May and leaving about the end of June. It deposited its egg close to the sea mark, being unable from the shortness of its wings to mount higher. It was naturally a timorous bird, incapable, from its structure, of flying, and almost of walking, a circumstance which, together with the fact of its laying only a single egg, may in some measure account for its extinction. Its solitary egg, which was about six inches long, was of a dirty white colour, streaked with lines of a purple hue, and blotched with dark rusty spots at the larger end.

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## A U K, L I T T L E.

URIA ALLE, *Temm.*

This species, as may be surmised from its appellation, is very minute compared with the preceding one, being only about nine inches long. It visits this country at uncertain periods during the winter season, and is not unfrequently driven in stormy weather a considerable distance inland. It is an inhabitant of northern latitudes during summer, being found in great numbers in Baffin's Bay,



Behring's Straits, and many other parts of the Arctic regions, where, as well as in Iceland and the Faroe Islands, it is said to breed. Its eggs, one or two in number, are about the size of a Blackbird's, and of a pale blue colour.

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## AVOCET, SCOOPER.

*RECURVIROSTRA AVOSETTA, Lin.*

This species is so called from its peculiar-shaped bill, which resembles two narrow flexible pieces of whalebone curved upwards, and about three and a half inches long. It was common in England some years since, more particularly on the Norfolk coast, but is now comparatively rare. It is found by lakes and the mouths of rivers, &c. in which it wades about, keeping near the shore. The foot being semi-palmated (or partly web-footed), it has the power of supporting itself on the water. The nest of this bird is made in the hole in the drier part of marshes. Its eggs, which are two in number and about one inch and a half in length, have a light grey ground, marked with dark brown irregular spots, with dusky under markings. The female, when disturbed by the presence of an intruder, feigns lameness, and flies about him in a manner similar to that of the Peewit Plover, uttering a yelping cry, from whence it is sometimes called the Yelper.

## BEE-EATER.

MEROPS APIASTER, *Lin.*

This is one of the most elegant of the European birds, and next to the Roller and Kingfisher, may be considered as the most brilliant in point of colour. It is a native of the warmer parts of Europe, being found particularly among the Islands of the Grecian Archipelago, and many parts both of Asia and Africa. There is no doubt that it is also an occasional visitant in this country, several specimens having been killed at different periods; but in the north of Europe it is seldom seen. It breeds in numbers on the banks of the rivers Don and Volga, and along the southern borders of Russia, making long horizontal holes for that purpose. The nest is made of moss and other soft materials; the eggs are of a pure white colour, about an inch in length, and from five to seven in number.

## BITTERN, AMERICAN.

ARDEA LENTIGINOSA, *Mont.*

This species appears to be generally distributed in North America. At certain periods of the year, Dr. Richardson says it is a common bird in the marshes and willow thickets of the interior of the fur country, and in the summer it is frequently seen

in New Orleans. It has also been found occasionally in this country, a few specimens having been shot at different times; one in Devonshire in 1804, which, with other birds of Colonel Montagu's, was presented to the British Museum. It makes its nest in swamps, and lays four eggs, an inch and a half in length, of a broad oval shape, rather pointed at the smaller end, and of a uniform cinereous green colour.

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## BITTERN, COMMON.

*ARDEA STELLARIS, Lin.*

This bird, which is similar in size and habits to the common Heron, was formerly plentifully distributed over this country, among the extensive marshes and waste lands; but since these began to be reclaimed by the introduction of an improved system of cultivation, the Bittern may be considered only an occasional visitant at uncertain periods. It is a shy, solitary bird, never seen on the wing by day except when disturbed, but generally sitting erect among the reeds and rushes in swampy situations. When it changes its haunts, which it does in the dusk of the evening, it makes a loud booming noise, more particularly in the breeding season. In handling a wounded Bittern it requires some care to prevent a severe blow on the face from its sharply-pointed bill. If it is not quite disabled, it

throws itself on its back and fights like a hawk, with its beak and claws. There are two or three recorded instances of its having bred in England. The nest, which is composed of sticks, rushes, &c., is placed on the ground among the thick coarse herbage near the water. The eggs, four or five in number and two and a quarter inches in length, are of a uniform greenish white colour and similar in shape at both ends.

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## BITTERN, LITTLE.

*ARDEA MINUTA, Lin.*

This bird, which is considerably less than either of the preceding examples of the same species, measures about fourteen inches in length, the body being about the size of that of a Blackbird. It dwells in marshes, by the side of rivers, in plantations of osiers, and in other moist situations where reeds and aquatic rank herbage grow. In this country the specimens have generally been obtained during the summer months, which has induced the belief that they breed here, but there is no recorded instance of the discovery of a Little Bittern's nest in England. It is a native of the southern parts of Europe and Asia, and is found at Madeira, and as far south as the Cape of Good Hope. It breeds in Holland. The nest, which is formed upon the ground, is composed of flag leaves and bits of grass

secured to the growing reeds. The eggs, four or five in number and an inch and a half in length, are of a dull white.

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## BLACK BIRD.

*TURDUS MERULA, Lin.*

This well-known bird, a native of the British Islands, is so familiar to English readers that little need be said of its haunts or habits. Never associating with its fellows, but preferring a solitary life, it frequents woods and thickets, and being of a shy and restless disposition, and always anxious to escape observation, it seeks the ever-greens for concealment: out of which, when alarmed, it darts with great celerity, its presence being known only by the sharp cry it utters. Its notes are rich, but destitute of that melody of song which is so pleasing in the Common Thrush. When kept in confinement however, which it frequently is, it may be taught to whistle various tunes, and to imitate the song of other birds, and even the human voice. It usually builds its nest in a thick bush or ivy-clad tree, and lays four or five eggs of a bluish green hue, blotched more or less with darker markings, but often varying very much in colour.

## BRAMBLING.

### BRAMBLE FINCH, OR MOUNTAIN FINCH.

FRINGILLA, MONTIFRINGILLA, *Lin.*

The Brambling, a bird somewhat larger than the Chaffinch, is a native of Iceland, Finland, and other northern parts of Europe, where it passes the summer in the wild and mountainous districts, building its nest in lofty pines and spruce trees. This species is only a winter visitant in this country, arriving in greater or fewer numbers during the autumn, when, with other granivorous birds, it frequents the stubble lands, preferring however always to roost in fir or larch plantations, if such are near its haunts; and as the spring approaches, returning to its northern home. Its eggs, four or five in number, so much resemble those of the Chaffinch in size and colour, that they require to be well authenticated.

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## BULLFINCH.

LOXIA PYRRHULA, *Lin.*

The Bullfinch is a native of England, and also of most parts of the European Continent. It is very common in the mountainous parts of Germany, from which country the market for Piping Bull-



finches is principally supplied. It is a bird of retired habits, and does not associate with other denizens of the air, but is generally seen in pairs or families of five or six. During the spring it is particularly destructive to the buds of fruit trees. Its loosely built nest, which is formed of small twigs and fibrous roots, is generally found in a low tree or thick bush. The eggs, four or five in number, are of a light blue, speckled with orange, and with brown and purple streaks.

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## BUNTING, BLACK-HEADED, OR REED.

### REED SPARROW.

*EMBERIZA SCHENICLUS, Lin.*

Birds of this species frequent fens and marshy places, where there are abundance of reeds and rushes. The female is destitute of the black head and white ring round the neck, which distinguish the male, the head, neck, and back being streaked with plain rusty brown lines, from which it has no doubt acquired the name of Reed Sparrow. An error has been very generally entertained regarding this bird. It has been asserted that it has a melodious song, a circumstance from which it has been confounded with the Reed and Sedge Warblers. The nest of the Black-headed Bunting is composed of dried grass and moss, lined

with hair, and is generally placed near the ground on a tuft of grass or rushes, by the stump of a thorn bush, at the water's edge. Its eggs, four or five in number, are of a dirty bluish white, with many dark coloured spots and veins.

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## BUNTING CIRL.

*EMBERIZA CIRLUS, Lin.*

This species appears to be generally distributed throughout the milder parts of England and the Isle of Wight, but it is rarely met with in the northern counties. It is also found plentifully in the milder parts of France, Italy, and on the shores of the Mediterranean. Its habits and manners very much resemble those of the Yellow Hammer, with which it occasionally associates during winter. It prefers perching on high trees rather than on hedges, and builds its nest higher from the ground than the Yellow Hammer. The nest is formed of a mixture of dried stalks of grass, fibres of roots, and moss, and is lined with hair. The eggs, four or five in number, and rather smaller than those of the Yellow Hammer, are of a greyish white colour, with waving brown lines, and not unfrequently spots of a chocolate hue.

## BUNTING, COMMON.

## GREAT, OR BUNTING LARK.

*EMBERIZA MILIARIA, Lin.*

This species, the largest of the Bunting family, and about seven and a half inches in length, is common in England, delighting in those parts that abound in corn, and rarely found in uncultivated places. In winter they assemble in vast flocks, and are often taken in nets, brought to market, and sold for larks. This species is common also not only in Scotland, extending even to the Orkneys, but also throughout the whole of Europe. It has been seen in considerable numbers very far to the north. The nest, which is placed in a tuft of dead plants a few inches from the ground, is composed of straw and dried grass, and is lined with fibres of roots and hair. The eggs, from four to six in number, are of a pale yellowish grey colour, spotted and veined with reddish brown.

## BUNTING, LAPLAND.

*EMBERIZA CALCARATA, Temm.*

The two species of Buntings found in this country (the Lapland and the Snow) differ in their habits from the other Buntings, in never perching, but living entirely upon the ground and running about

in a manner similar to the Larks. The Lapland Bunting, as its name implies, is a native of the northern regions. It is found in Siberia, also westward to Hudson's Bay, in the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Iceland during summer. The species however is not numerous in the higher northern latitudes. Towards summer they occasionally migrate southward as far as Switzerland. They breed on the shores of the Arctic seas, placing their nest, which is composed of dry grass, woven to a considerable thickness and neatly lined with deer's hair, on a small hillock in a moist situation among moss and stones. The female usually lays seven eggs of a pale ochre colour, spotted with brown.

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## BUNTING, ORTOLAN.

*EMBERIZA HORTULANA, Selby.*

There are very few recorded instances of the capture of the Ortolan Bunting in this country; but the species is numerous in the South of France, and in other southern countries of Europe, during summer. In winter it takes its flight to Africa, where it finds a climate less rigorous than that of those parts of Europe which it frequents. It also visits Lapland, Sweden, and Norway, where it breeds, making its nest on the ground. The nest

is similar to that of the Skylark, though rather neater in construction. The eggs, which are from four to six in number, have a bluish white ground, speckled and spotted with black. At certain periods of the year these birds are often taken in great numbers in France, where they are fattened for the table, and from whence they are imported into this country alive.

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## BUNTING, SNOW.

MOUNTAIN OR TAWNY BUNTING. SNOW FLAKE.

*EMBERIZA NIVALIS, Mont.*

The various names given to this bird by early authors, all referring to one and the same species, have doubtless been suggested by varieties in colour and markings, arising from a difference of age, or from the effect of season. The Snow Bunting may be generally considered as only a winter visitor to this country; a portion of the young birds of the year, which breed in high northern latitudes, annually visiting our Islands. It is only in severe weather and late in the winter season that the older birds make their appearance. The Snow Bunting is an inhabitant, during the breeding season, of the Arctic regions, Greenland, Lapland, Hudson's Bay, and other cold northern countries. The nest,

which is built in the fissures of the mountain rocks, is composed externally of grass, and in the interior is lined with feathers and hair, or the down of the Arctic Fox. The eggs, of which there are generally five, are of a bluish white hue with purplish streaks, and with numerous spots of brown round the thick end.

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## BUNTING, YELLOW.

### YELLOW HAMMER.

*EMBERIZA CITRINELLA, Lin.*

This bird is to be met with in considerable numbers in England and throughout the greater part of Europe, though it does not appear to extend so far northward as the Common Bunting. In summer the well known notes of the male, almost incessantly heard from the roadside hedge, cannot but attract the passer by, whose eye is no less pleased by the gay yellow colour of its plumage. In winter the Yellow Hammer joins the flocks of Greenfinches, Chaffinches, &c. which congregate in the fields and farm yards. Its nest, which is built in low bushes or upon the ground under a tuft of grass, is formed externally of coarse grass, within which is a layer of the same herbage, of finer quality, lined with hair. In breeding time it



lays from three to five eggs of a pale purplish white, with streaks of chocolate red in waving lines, frequently terminating in spots of the same colour.

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## BUSTARD, GREAT.

OTIS TARDA, *Lin.*

This species of the feathered tribe, the largest of the British Land Birds, was formerly common in many parts of England and also in Scotland. It was constantly seen on the extensive plains of Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, Norfolk, and in parts of Yorkshire; but as agriculture advanced it gradually became very scarce, and is now almost, if not quite, extinct in this country. It feeds chiefly on grasses and herbs of various kinds, particularly green corn, and also on the common earth-worm, of which it is very fond. The male has a kind of a pouch in the fore part of the neck (which was first discovered by Dr. Douglas), capable of containing about two quarts of water, which is admitted by an entrance under the tongue. It is found in France, Italy, and various parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa. The eggs of this species, which are two in number, about the size of those of a goose, are of a pale olive brown, slightly blotched with greenish brown and other hues. The female builds no nest, but deposits her eggs in the ground.

## BUSTARD, LITTLE.

OTIS TETRAX, *Lin.*

This bird is found in Spain, Italy, and the southern parts of Europe, where it is said to remain all the year; also in the deserts of Tartary and in the neighbourhood of the Caspian Sea. It has been taken in several instances in Great Britain, but on no occasion is an adult male known to have been captured in this country. It occasionally visits Scotland; where, as we are informed, a female was shot by Mr. Adamson near Saint Andrews in March, 1840. The female is smaller than the male, and of a more uniform colour. It builds its nest on the ground, among herbage which is high enough to conceal the bird. The eggs, from three to five in number, are of a glossy green colour.

## BUSTARD, RUFFEA.

MACQUEEN'S BUSTARD.

OTIS MACQUEENII, *Gray.*

There are only one or two recorded instances of the capture of any of this species in Europe. One which was taken in Lincolnshire is now in the Museum of the Philosophical Society at York; and another, killed near Brussels in 1845, is in the Museum of Natural History in that city. This species is said to be common on the stony plains

of Afghanistan, where it remains all the year, and in Scinde, where it is reported to be numerous. They are generally seen in flocks of from five to six together, and when on the wing fly heavily and for short distances, soon alighting and running along the ground. The flesh is very tender, and is so covered with fat that skins are with difficulty preserved. Of its nidification nothing is known.

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BUZZARD, COMMON,  
OR PUTTOCK.

FALCO BUTEO, *Lin.*

This species, which is one of the most common of the larger kinds of Hawks, is now confined to the woodland districts of England, and is much sought after in preserves. It is more generally found in the recesses of the forests of Scotland, Wales, and Ireland; also in Norway, Sweden, and the wooded parts of Europe. It is said to be abundant in Holland during autumn, remaining in that country until the spring. It inhabits also the northern parts of Africa, and has been discovered even in the fur countries of North America. One of the peculiar habits of this species is that it generally seeks its food late in the evening. The Buzzard varies very much in colour and plumage, and consequently the species have been multiplied

by some Naturalists. It preys upon rabbits, game, and small birds, and though possessed of strength and weapons to defend itself, is so cowardly and inactive that it allows itself to be beaten even by the Sparrow Hawk. It generally forms its nest in the branches of a tree, or on the edge of rocks, &c., using for its construction sticks, heath, &c., and lining it with softer substances. The female lays from two to four eggs of a whitish colour, spotted with brown. It is said that if the female is killed the male will hatch and rear up the young birds, which generally remain with the parents some time after quitting the nest.

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### BUZZARD, HONEY.

*FALCO APIVORUS, Lin.*

This species, which appears to have been first described by Willoughby as a British bird, is so called from its destroying for food the nests of bees, wasps, &c., which, with the addition of mice and small birds, appear to be its favourite food. It is mostly met with on the east coast, though it has also been killed in Dorsetshire, Devonshire, Worcestershire, and other western counties. It has been found in Scotland and Ireland. It inhabits Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Russia, and the southern portions of Europe. In Holland, where it is occasionally seen, it is considered by

Temminck as rare as in England. Its flight is easy and graceful, though low, for it seldom flies except from one tree to another, its deficiency in this respect being compensated for by the speed with which it runs along the ground, its motion, which is like that of our common fowls, being very fast. It builds its nest in lofty trees, forming it of twigs, &c., and lining it with wool and other suitable materials. Its eggs, generally two in number, are blotched with a faint and deep red on a paler ground. The author has a pair of these birds with their eggs, killed in the New Forest a few years since.

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### BUZZARD, ROUGH-LEGGED.

FALCO LAGOPUS, *Temm.*

This species, which is much rarer than the Common Buzzard, inhabits the North of Europe, and is scattered southward over that Continent to the shores of the Mediterranean. It is found also in the United States and in Africa. In this country it is usually observed in the spring and autumn, when it changes its latitude from south to north, or *vice versâ*. It goes northward to breed, flying slowly on its passage, during which it may be observed sitting for a long time on the boughs of a tree, watching for mice, frogs, &c., or skimming over swampy ground, and hunting for its prey by

the subdued daylight, being well fitted for this nocturnal chase by the softness of its plumage, which contributes to render its flight noiseless, like that of an owl. The nest is built of sticks, on a high tree standing on low moist alluvial land. The eggs, three or four in number, are of a light colour slightly marked with light brown.

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### CAPERCAILLIE.

#### WOOD GROUSE, OR COCK OF THE WOOD.

TETRAO UROGALLUS, *Mon.*

This noble bird, the largest of the Grouse species, was formerly found in the high mountainous regions of Scotland, parts of North Wales, and also in Ireland. It is never seen now, however, in these countries ; the last of the species appears to have been killed about the same period in the two kingdoms, namely about a century ago, when one was shot in Scotland and another in Ireland. Within the last twenty years considerable trouble has been taken by a few noblemen to reintroduce these magnificent birds into the forests of Scotland, and they have succeeded to a limited extent. It is found now in Norway, Sweden, Russia, and other northern countries, frequenting wooded mountainous districts and forests of pine, and feeding upon the leaves and tender shoots of the Scotch fir, berries of different kinds, and the buds of the birch. It breeds in the larger forests, where it remains all the year. The female makes her nest



upon the ground, and lays from six to twelve eggs, about two and a quarter inches long, of a light yellowish brown, with spots of a darker colour. As soon as the nesting commences the males forsake the females, and leave them to attend alone to the hatching and rearing of their young.

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### CHAFFINCH.

FRINGILLA CŒLEBS, *Lin.*

This well-known lively bird, the handsomest of the common small birds, is familiarly known in England, where it is seen throughout the year. During winter, as long as the weather continues mild, the males congregate in immense flocks in the stubble lands, but on the approach of snow and inclement weather they resort to farm-yards and other sheltered places. The females, deserting their mates, migrate southward, and until the return of spring few of them are to be seen. Linnæus, in his Fauna of Sweden, mentions this fact, stating that the females migrate from that country during winter; from which circumstance he bestowed on the species the name of Cœlebs (or Bachelor). In this country its short and frequently repeated note, heard as early as February, points it out as one of the first of our indigenous birds to afford an indication of returning spring.

It is found in almost every part of Europe, in the northern parts of Africa, and even as far as

the Azores. On the Continent it is one of the most common cage birds. The young males, previous to the first moult, resemble the females. The Chaffinch, which rears two broods, builds in various situations, sometimes in a bush, in a tree, on its forks, or among the ivy that encircles its branches. The nest, which exhibits in its construction great neatness and beauty, is composed of moss and various lichens, lined internally with wool and hair. The eggs, four or five in number, are of a purplish buff, slightly streaked and blotched with dark reddish brown.

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## CHOUGH.

### RED-LEGGED CROW.

PYRRHOCORAX GRACULUS, *Temm.*

The Chough, which is not a common bird in this country, is chiefly confined to the wastes of Cornwall, Devonshire, and Wales, and is occasionally found on the cliffs of Dover. It is seen at times in Scotland, the Hebrides, the Isle of Man, and sometimes in Jersey. It is an inhabitant also of the Swiss Alps, the Tyrol, France, Spain, and Egypt, &c. Avoiding the green turf, its favourite places of resort are the most inaccessible rocks and cliffs. It may also be seen perched or walking on stone walls, which it appears to prefer to the gravel-covered ground below them. It is a lively bird, and when tamed, a task which is easily accom-

plished, becomes extremely docile, and is very fond of being caressed by those to whom it shows attachment. Its shrill notes and mischievous qualities, however, render it sometimes a troublesome inmate.

It often becomes bold and pugnacious, is extremely sensitive to what it deems insult, and resents an affront with violence. The Chough builds its nest on high cliffs, old castles, and church towers near the sea shore. The nest is composed externally of sticks, and the interior is lined with a quantity of wool and hair. The female lays three or four eggs of a bluish white hue, spotted with yellow.

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## COOT, COMMON.

### BALD COOT.

*FULICA ATRA, Lin.*

This bird is similar in its general appearance to the Water-hen, from which however it differs in a very material degree in the formation of its feet, the membranes of the toes being furnished with lobes or scollops, the middle one with three and the outer one with four. It has also on the forehead a pure white fleshy substance, from which it takes its name of the Bald Coot. These birds are met with in England throughout the year, being found upon ponds, lakes, and still rivers. They

are very numerous in the Isle of Sheppey, Southampton Water, and various parts of Dorset and Devonshire. Scotland is visited by them during the summer months; and they are occasionally found during the same period on the coasts of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and the Faroe Islands. The Bald Coot indeed is generally diffused over the whole Continent of Europe. In the autumn a considerable number of these birds change their stations, removing from ponds and small lakes, where they have bred and reared their young, and resorting to the larger lakes and sea coasts, where there are large mud flats. It is usual for them to form their nests on a tuft of rushes, or amongst reeds surrounded by water. The nest is composed of dry coarse herbage, well matted together, the inside being lined with soft fine grass. The female lays from ten to fourteen eggs, having a brownish white ground, sprinkled with small dark spots and blotches.

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## CORMORANT, COMMON.

*CARBO CORMORANUS, Temm.*

These birds, which frequent all parts of the world, are found in considerable numbers on our coasts, assembling on the lofty summits and inaccessible points of the rocks, where the female builds her nest. They are very voracious, and

both at sea and in inland rivers make terrible havoc among the finny tribe. Being most excellent divers they pursue their prey under the water with great rapidity and facility, but upon land, though the tail, which is furnished with strong feathers, assists them in walking, they are extremely awkward in their movements, in consequence of their legs being placed so far backwards. In China they are used for fishing, a ring or strap being fastened round the neck to prevent them swallowing the fish. During spring and the early part of summer the adult birds have a crest, of which they are destitute in winter. The eggs are four or five in number, and of a bluish green colour.

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## CORMORANT, GREEN.

### SHAG, OR CRESTED SHAG.

*CARBO CRISTATUS, Selby.*

Is less than the last species, and may be easily distinguished from the Common Cormorant by its green colour. It is as greedy and voracious, and frequents the same localities, but never quits the sea. The adult Shag, as well as the Common Cormorant, is provided during spring and summer with a crest, which disappears in winter. The young birds are destitute of this ornament. Crested birds of this species are often found asso-

ciating and breeding in one locality, while the non-crested immature birds congregate in another. The nest, which is built nearer the water than that of the last species, is composed of sea-weed, &c. The eggs, three or four in number, are of the same colour as those of the Common Cormorant, but smaller.

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## COURSER, CREAM-COLOURED.

### SWIFTFOOT.

*Cursorius isabellinus*, *Selby*.

This rare and beautiful species is a native of Africa, inhabiting the dry sandy plains that occupy so large a portion of that continent. Very little appears to be known respecting its habits or breeding places; but being similar in conformation and general appearance to the Bustard, though much more minute in size, its entire length being only about ten inches, it may be presumed that its habits, &c., are similar to those of that species. The adults of both sexes resemble each other in the colour of their plumage, the prevailing hue being buff or cream, from whence it takes its name. Only three or four specimens of this bird have been taken in this country; and it appears to be equally rare on the Continent, being only an accidental visitor to the southern parts of Europe. Most of the specimens contained in the collections have been procured from Barbary or Abyssinia.

## CRAKE, BAILLON'S.

GALLINULA BAILLONII, *Temm.*

This species is very similar in appearance and habits to the Spotted Crake, with this difference only that it is much smaller and not so much spotted. It is found in this country, the first specimen of which we have any record having been caught upon the ice during the winter of 1823, about nine miles south of Cambridge. Since that time several others have been taken in the fens of the Eastern Counties. It is a well known species on the opposite coast of France, where it breeds in the marshes, forming its nest of aquatic plants among rushes. The female lays seven or eight eggs, of an oval shape, of a light olive brown colour, blotched with brown of a darker hue.

Examples have also been brought from Italy, Switzerland, Africa, and even from Japan, which do not differ in appearance from those obtained in England.

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CRAKE, LITTLE.GALLINULA FUSILLA, *Temm.*

Though neither this species nor the preceding has been known to breed in this country, both have been occasionally found in it. No doubt the chief cause of their being so rarely obtained, is their being so minute in size for an aquatic bird; their

frequenting swampy places, where they conceal themselves among the thick herbage; and their power of swimming, diving, and hiding their body under water. This, and the last-named species, appear to have been confounded with each other, which is not at all surprising, as they are both about the same size and colour, except that the white markings on the back and scapula of Baillon's Crake are much more numerous and distinct than those of this species. Their habits also appear to be similar, and their usual haunts are doubtless the same. Specimens of both birds have been obtained from the same countries. Their manner of nesting, and the number and colour of their eggs, are also identical.

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## CRAKE, SPOTTED.

### SPOTTED GALLINULE.

GALLINULA PORZANA, *Temm.*

This bird, which is more common than either of the two preceding species, is a summer visitor to this country, frequenting low swampy situations, where reeds, rushes, and other coarse herbage offer a place of concealment beside pools and streams. Being a shy, wild, and solitary bird, it is with difficulty made to rise, and consequently is not often seen. Its nest, formed of rushes and other light materials, is constructed on the ground, close



to the water's edge. Being secured to the pendent reeds, woven and matted together, it floats securely with the ebbing and flowing of the water. The female lays eight or nine eggs of a reddish white hue, speckled with dark reddish brown. The young, which are covered with black down when first hatched, almost immediately take to the water and shift for themselves.

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## CRANE, COMMON.

*GRUS CINEREA, Temm.*

This large species of wader, measuring about five feet in length, was frequently found some years since by the sides of the lakes and fens of this country, in which it is now extremely rare. It is widely spread however, and in its migrations performs the most distant journeys. During summer it is found scattered over the north of Europe and Asia, and in winter is met with in the warmer regions of India, Syria, Egypt, &c. Its food is variable, consisting occasionally of grain and aquatic plants, at other times, worms, reptiles, &c. It breeds in Norway, Sweden, &c., usually placing its nest among reeds, &c., in the fens, though it is also occasionally found on some secluded ruins, &c. The female lays two greyish green eggs, spotted and blotched with brown.

## CREEPER, COMMON.

## TREE CREEPER.

*CERTHIA FAMILIARIS, Lin.*

The Creeper, next to the Golden-Crested Wren or *Regulus*, one of the least of British birds, is generally distributed throughout the country, but is very secluded in its habits, frequenting groves and plantations. In search of its food it scales trees in the same manner as the Woodpecker, and like that bird is supported behind by a stiff pointed tail. The bill is hooked, the legs slender, the toes and claws very long. It breeds in hollow trees, and lays from five to nine dull white eggs, diversified at the larger end with small reddish spots.

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## CROSSBILL, COMMON.

*LOXIA CURVIROSTRA, Lin.*

The great peculiarity of this bird is its remarkably shaped bill, which, notwithstanding its apparently awkward and useless form, is found to be most admirably adapted to the peculiar habits of the bird. The two mandibles, instead of lying in a straight direction, cross each other in a similar manner to a pair of scissors, an arrangement which enables the Common Crossbill to obtain its food

with the greatest facility. It lives mostly on the seeds of fir cones, in extracting which it shews great dexterity.

The visits of this curious and interesting species to our shores occur at irregular periods, an interval of many years sometimes intervening without their making their appearance. The last occasions on which they visited our shores in considerable numbers were in 1836, 37, 38, during which years they were generally distributed throughout the country. In the visits which they have made since those periods they have come in very limited numbers, and their presence has been confined chiefly to the north of Scotland, where they occasionally breed very early in the season.

The nest, which is placed in the fork of a branch, is composed of moss, lichens, &c., and lined with feathers. The eggs, four in number, are marked chiefly at the larger ends with irregular patches of dark red, and with minute spots over the other parts.

The bill of the young birds is not crossed over till they are obliged to seek their own living; an arrangement which exhibits one of those beautiful provisions of nature under which the formative process remains suspended till the age and necessities of the bird require its completion.

## CROSSBILL, PARROT.

LOXIA PITYOPSITTACUS, *Temm.*

This species is distinguished from the Common Crossbill by its greater length, its more bulky body, and a greater thickness of the beak at the base. It breeds in Germany, in the same localities as the species just described. In its habits and manners it resembles the Common Crossbill, and like it inhabits the pine forests of the more northern countries, but as a species is rarer, few specimens having been obtained, particularly in this country, in which it has not been known to breed. The eggs, four or five in number, are similarly marked, but rather larger.

## CROSSBILL, EUROPEAN.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.

LOXIA LEUCOPTERA, *Temm.*

This species is rather larger than a Sparrow. Its beak, which is almost as large as that of a Common Crossbill, is less compressed than the same part in the American bird, the points less crossed, and the over-end less elongated. The tail also is less forked. The plumage of the male is usually of a dull brick red, and the tail feathers are more distinctly bordered with yellow. This bird has been observed in

winter in Belgium, England, Bavaria, &c. But little appears to be known of its habits. It is occasionally taken in Scandinavia, and is not unfrequently seen in central Sweden among the Crossbills; but it has a different call note and a different song.

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## CROSSBILL.

### AMERICAN WHITE-WINGED.

*LOXIA LEUCOPTERA, Gmelin.*

This little bird is more diminutive than a Sparrow. Its beak is small and very much compressed, the points slender and elongated. The plumage of the adult males is of a brilliant crimson, and the tail, which is greatly forked, black, the feathers having little or no bordering.

This species appears to be rather numerous in North America, frequenting the pine swamps and forests, and feeding almost exclusively on the seeds of these trees, together with a few berries. Its nest, which it builds on the limb of a pine, towards the centre, is composed of grasses and earth lined with feathers. The female lays five eggs with a white ground spotted with yellow. Only one or two White-winged Crossbills, which have been recognized as belonging to this particular species, have been taken in England.

## CROW, CARRION.

## COMMON CROW.

*CORVUS CORONE, Lin.*

This bird is common in the western parts of Europe, but is of very rare occurrence in the eastern districts of the Continent. It is considerably less than the Raven, but is similar to it in colour, external appearance, and in many of its habits. It may be readily distinguished from the Rook by the greater strength of its bill, which is never destitute of the bristly feathers that cover the base and nostrils, as is the case with the latter. Carrion Crows seldom associate in numbers, but generally remain in pairs throughout the year. They feed on putrescent flesh of all sorts, as well as on worms, insects, and various kinds of grain. Young rabbits, chickens, and ducks also frequently become their victims, and when pressed by hunger they will even attack birds on the wing. They chiefly visit wooded districts, but are common throughout other parts of the country. They build on trees, forming their nests of sticks lined with hair, wool, &c. The eggs are four or five in number, and of a pale bluish green, spotted and blotched with ash colour and brown. The male feeds the female while she remains upon the eggs, and both defend their young with great courage against birds of a much larger size.

## CROW, HOODED.

## ROYSTON CROW.

CORVUS CORNIX, *Lin.*

This species is found in Germany, Denmark, Poland, Sweden, Russia, and several other European countries. It is met with also in various parts of England, whither it migrates from Sweden and Norway in the beginning of winter, leaving this country with the Woodcock in the spring. It is common in the northern and western parts of Scotland, the Orkneys and Hebrides, where it remains all the year. In the maritime parts of England it feeds upon crabs and other shell-fish, and on the downs of the southern counties upon grain and carrion. It seldom associates except when obtaining food. It is said to breed in North America, Germany, and also in considerable numbers on the Faroe Islands. Like other birds of its kind it breeds early, building its nest in any kind of tree conveniently situated for the purpose; but if none are to be found, making it on the rocks and cliffs. The nest is composed of sticks and straw, lined with hair and wool. The female lays five or six eggs of a light green mottled with greenish brown.

## CUCKOO, COMMON.

*CUCULUS CANORUS, Lin.*

The Cuckoo arrives in this country about the month of April, and the adult bird leaves about the beginning of July, but the young birds of the year do not leave till about September. The Cuckoo is generally distributed over Great Britain and the Orkneys during summer. The great peculiarity of this bird appears to be that of depositing its solitary egg, for it seldom lays more than one, in the nest of some small bird, such as the Hedge Sparrow, Pied Wagtail, Linnet, Whitethroat, Redstart, Yellow Hammer, and others, but more particularly the Hedge Sparrow. When the young Cuckoo is hatched it makes an attack upon the remaining eggs, if any, and offspring of its foster parents, destroying the former and generally succeeding in turning out the latter. Its back, when young, is very broad, with a depression in the middle, which disappears in about a fortnight. The egg is about the size of Skylark's, of a light mottled reddish grey.

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## CUCKOO, GREAT SPOTTED.

*CUCULUS GLANDARIUS, Lin.*

This species inhabits North Africa, and has been found also in Germany, Italy, and Spain, but of its habits very little is known.



There is only one recorded instance of the capture of a Great-spotted Cuckoo in Great Britain. It was taken on the island of Omah, in the county of Galway, about Christmas, 1843, it having taken refuge in a stone fence or wall from the attack of Hawks. This solitary specimen is now in the Museum of Trinity College, Dublin.

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### CUCKOO, YELLOW-BILLED.

*CUCULUS CINEROSUS, Temm.*

There are several instances of this species having been killed in Great Britain. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo, unlike our Common Cuckoo, builds its own nest and attends to its offspring with great assiduity; but it is said to rob smaller birds of their eggs, and its own are occasionally found in the nests of others of the feathered tribe. Wilson, in his American Ornithology, says:—"Early in May they begin to pair, when obstinate battles take place among the males. About the tenth of that month they commence building. The nest is usually fixed among the horizontal branches of an apple tree; sometimes in a solitary thorn, crab, or cedar, in some retired part of the woods. It is constructed with little art, and scarcely any concavity, of small sticks and twigs, intermixed with green weeds and

“ blossoms of the common maple. On this almost  
 “ flat bed the eggs, usually three or four in number,  
 “ are placed; these are of a uniform greenish blue  
 “ colour, and of a size proportionable to that of  
 “ the bird. While the female is sitting the male is  
 “ generally not far distant, and gives the alarm by  
 “ his notes when any person is approaching. The  
 “ female sits so close that you may almost reach  
 “ her with your hand, and then precipitates her-  
 “ self to the ground, feigning lameness to draw  
 “ you away from the spot, fluttering, trailing her  
 “ wings, and tumbling over in the manner of the  
 “ partridge, woodcock, and many other species.  
 “ Their food consists for the most part of cater-  
 “ pillars, particularly such as infest the apple  
 “ trees. They also occasionally eat various kinds  
 “ of berries. But from the circumstance of  
 “ destroying such numbers of very noxious larvæ,  
 “ they prove themselves the friend of the farmer.”

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## CURLEW, COMMON.

NUMENIUS ARQUATA, *Temm.*

This bird is found in most parts of England.  
 In summer it haunts the large heathy and boggy  
 moors, feeding on worms, larvæ, flies, &c. The  
 rest of the year it resorts to the sea-shore, where  
 it feeds on small crabs and marine insects. It is

found in Denmark, Norway, &c. as well as in Africa and the East Indies. In the summer it visits Iceland and the Faroe Islands. It breeds in the boggy moors of Iceland, and also in Shropshire, Cornwall, &c. Its nest, composed of dry grass and leaves, is placed in a tuft of long grass or rushes. The eggs, four in number, are of an olive green hue, spotted with dark green and brown. The Curlew is very shy and vigilant, alarming other birds by its oft repeated loud cries, in sound resembling "corlieu" or "courlie," whence its name. It runs with speed, and has a strong and rapid flight. Being in some request as food, it is often seen in the markets.

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## CURLEW, ESQUIMAUX.

### NUMENIUS BOREALIS.

This species of the Curlew, which in its whole length is about fourteen inches, the bill two inches and a quarter, frequents, according to the statement of Sir John Richardson, the barren lands within the Arctic circle in summer, when it feeds on grubs, fresh water insects, and the crow-berry. The first appearance of this bird recorded in Great Britain is that of one which was killed in Scotland in September, 1855, in the parish of Durris, Kincardineshire, by W. R. Cussach Smith, Esq. Its eggs are pear-shaped, of a green colour, clouded

with a few large irregular spots of bright umber brown.

The Copper Indians believe that this bird and some others betray the approach of strangers to the Esquimaux by their peculiar habit of flying backwards and forwards over a particular spot in search of their food. On the 13th June Sir J. Richardson states:—"I discovered one of these " Curlews sitting on three eggs on the shore of " Point Lake. When I approached the nest she " ran a short distance, crouching close to the " ground, and then stopped to observe the fate of " the objects of her care." This species has been observed in spring passing from Texas along the coast eastward to the fur countries, where it resorts in that season, returning in the autumn.

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## DIPPER, COMMON.

### WATER OUZEL.

*CINCLUS AQUATICUS, Temm.*

These interesting little birds are natives of our island. They are found in Devonshire and other parts of England, in Scotland and Wales. Most of the other northern countries of Europe are also visited by them. From their peculiar habits, they are usually found near clear and rocky stream-lets. They are generally seen single or in pairs,

and always on the margin of the stream, or perched in their peculiar attitude on some projecting stone in the middle of the water. By some naturalists they have been said to walk with apparent ease at the bottom of the water, a statement which after close observation appears doubtful. They breed early, and the young are generally fledged in the beginning of May. They build their large mossy nest in any part of a rock that overhangs a stream. Similar in shape to that of the Wren, the nest is composed externally of moss and lined with the decayed leaves of oak and other trees. When perched this bird delights in a constant dipping motion, at the same time flirting its tail, which is carried rather erect, in the same manner as that of the Wren. The eggs, four or five in number, are of a transparent white.

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## DIVER, GREAT NORTHERN.

COLYMBUS GLACIALIS, *Lin.*

The Great Northern Diver is not very numerous, nor permanently resident in any locality. Narrow channels, friths, sealocks, and sandy bays are its favourite places of resort. It swims with great speed, sinking partially when alarmed, and dives with remarkable celerity, remaining a long time under water. On account of its vigilance and

dexterity it is very difficult to be shot. From the middle of spring to the end of May it is common along our northern coasts, and from October to spring young birds especially are met with from one end of the island to the other. In summer it betakes itself to the Arctic regions. In its adult state it is rare on some parts of the Continent. The nest, which it builds at pairing time, is large and rude in construction. The eggs generally are three in number, of a form considerably elongated, three inches and three quarters in length, two inches and a quarter in breadth. In colour they are of a dull yellowish green, spotted with dusky brown. The flesh of the Diver is dark and unsavoury, and the skin is sometimes used as material for caps, &c.

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## DIVER, BLACK-THROATED.

### LESSER IMBER.

#### COLYMBUS ARCTICUS, *Lin.*

Of the three species known in this country the Black-throated Diver is the most rare, occurring in the adult state but seldom, though young birds are not uncommon. The habits of this species closely resemble those of the Great Northern Diver. It is generally dispersed over the north

of Europe and America. It breeds in the Hebrides and the extreme north of Scotland. The female makes no nest, but deposits her eggs, which are two in number, upon the bare ground, removed about ten or twelve feet from the water's edge. The eggs measure two inches and three quarters in length, by one inch and a quarter in breadth, and are of a dark olive brown, thinly spotted with dark umber brown.

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## DIVER, RED-THROATED.

### SPECKLED DIVER.

#### COLYMBUS SEPTENTRIONALIS, *Lin.*

This is the smallest as well as the most common of the species. The occurrence of specimens with white throats in winter is so frequent, while those with red throats at the same time of the year are so rare, that Naturalists have been led to the supposition of their being two distinct species. From October to April the Red-throated Diver is met with from one end of Great Britain to the other, in estuaries, and along the coast from the British Channel to Cape Wrath. In summer many pairs breed in the northern parts of Scotland and in the Hebrides. The habits of this bird are very similar to those of the other two species, but it is more active in the water. In the bulky and rude nest

which it builds, the female lays two elongated eggs, unequal in size, the larger being three inches in length and one inch and three quarters in breadth. They are of an olive brown colour, variously tinted and spotted with umber. The young birds betake themselves to the water soon after being hatched.

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## DOTTEREL.

CHARADEIUS MORINELLUS, *Lin.*

The Dotterel makes its appearance in various parts of England and Scotland, when on its way to more northern regions, in April and May, and is seen again on its return in September and October. Many remain in this country to breed, settling in various parts of the mountainous districts of Cumberland and Westmoreland, and also in some parts of the Grampians. As this species makes no nest the female deposits her eggs, generally three in number, in a small cavity, in a dry place, and in most cases near a moderately sized stone or fragment of rock. The eggs, of a yellowish olive colour, blotched and spotted with dark brownish black, are an inch and a half in length, and one inch and an eighth in breadth. After the breeding season they collect themselves together into flocks and betake themselves into the lower parts of the country.



## DOVE, RING.

WOOD PIGEON, CUSHAT, QUEEST.

COLUMBA PALUMBUS, *Lin.*

This is the largest European species, and is found in all parts of Europe. In England it is met with in all wooded and inclosed parts of the kingdom, and is not migratory. It is amongst the earliest breeders of our native birds, generally pairing towards the latter part of February. The Wood Pigeon usually produces two or three broods in the course of the year, but never more than two young birds at each hatching. The nest, which is wide and shallow, is formed of small twigs loosely put together, and is placed in an upper fork or among the closer branches of some rather tall tree. The ivy encircling trees, or creeping over the face of rocks, is also not unfrequently selected for its site. The eggs, two in number, are of an oval form and white in colour.

## DOVE, ROCK.

COLUMBA LIVIA, *Selby.*

The Rock Dove, as its name implies, inhabits precipitous rocks near the sea shore, in the cavities

of which it lives the greater part of the year, only venturing as far inland as the nearest corn fields or other places where it may find suitable food. As a species it is quite distinct from the Stock Dove. It was called *Columba Livia* on account of its lighter or more livid blue colour. It is pure white on the lower part of the back, and has two conspicuous black bars across the wings. Its voice, too, and its habits are very different from those of the Stock Dove. It is supposed to be the species from which our domestic Pigeons were derived. It breeds in the Orkneys and Shetland Islands, building its nest in the subterranean caverns of those rocky coasts. They produce two pair of young in the season, each pair generally consisting of a male and female bird. The eggs are white, and of a short oval shape, rather pointed at one end.

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## DOVE, STOCK.

*COLUMBA AENAS, Lin.*

This species is a native of this country, but is found only in certain localities. It is common in Hertfordshire and some of the midland counties, but does not frequent the northern parts of the island. In its habits it resembles the Ring Dove, and is a constant inhabitant of woods, breeding in

the hollows of old and pollard trees. It is, however, less plentiful and more local than the species just named. In Norfolk and Suffolk it frequently makes its nest in a rabbit burrow. The female lays two eggs of a white colour and oval shape.

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## DOVE, TURTLE.

*COLUMBA TURTUR, Lin.*

This species is found throughout all the temperate parts of Europe, but its utmost flight never carries it within the Arctic circle. It is known in England, in which, however, it is only a summer visitant, arriving from Africa about the latter end of April, or the beginning of May. It makes its appearance principally in the southern, eastern, and midland counties. In Kent, where it breeds in the thickest woods, it is very numerous, but is rarely found as far westward as Devonshire. It is never met with in the northern counties during summer, but has occasionally been killed in Northumberland during autumn. It builds in the closest woods, where it constructs a shallow nest of small twigs. It lays two eggs of an oval shape, white, as are those of all this genus, and about half the size of those of the common Pigeon.

## DUCK, BIMACULATED.

*ANAS GLOECITANS, Gmel.*

This species is said to inhabit Asia, and but few specimens have been met with in England. Of these one, a male, taken in a decoy in 1771, was described and figured by Pennant. A male and female, caught in the same manner near Maldon in Essex, in 1812, were described by Mr. Vigors, and presented by him to the Zoological Society. Of its habits and nidification nothing is known.

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## DUCK, BUFFEL-HEADED.

*FULIGULA ALBEOLA, Audobon.*

This species is not uncommon in North America, where, besides other localities, they are found in the fur country, and also on the streams of the Rocky Mountains. Two or three specimens have been captured in Great Britain, and there is reason to believe that others have been seen during winter in the water about Yarmouth. Its shy disposition and wary habits, conjoined with its wonderful expertness in diving, rendering it very difficult to approach, may in some measure account for the small number taken in this coun-

try. It leaves the United States in spring to breed in more northern regions, and, like the Golden Eye, is said to make its nest in hollow trees.

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## DUCK, EIDER.

*ANAS MOLLISSIMA, Lin.*

Is very abundant in the northern parts of Scotland and Ireland. It breeds in various parts of the former country, more especially in the Northern Isles. The Eider Duck is not uncommon in the Frith of Forth, about North Berwick, and on the coast of Fife. It has been found breeding plentifully also on the islands of the west coast of Norway, where it is strictly protected. The nest is formed of dried plants and bits of turf. The eggs, from five to eight in number, are of a longish oval form, smooth and glossy, and of a pale greenish gray hue, three inches in length and nearly two in breadth. When the eggs are laid, the female plucks the down from her breast, and deposits it among them, and during the time she sits is said to be so tame as even to allow herself to be stroked with the hand.

## DUCK, FERRUGINOUS.

*ANAS FERRUGINEA, Gmel.*

Is an annual visitant, during winter, in England, but not common; nor has it been observed at all in Scotland. It is found in North Germany from October to March. It is seen also in Italy, North Africa, and Russia. It feeds on insects, small frogs, aquatic plants and their seeds. By Temminck it is said to make its nest near rivers and marshes, laying nine or ten white eggs tinged with green, measuring two inches and an eighth long by one and a half broad.

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## DUCK, GADWALL, OR GRAY.

*ANAS STREPERA, Lin.*

The Gadwall can scarcely be considered as a regular winter visitant to this country. It is occasionally met with near the eastern coasts of England, and that chiefly in spring. It has not hitherto been found in Scotland. It is said to be extensively dispersed over the Continent, and is very abundant in Holland. It is found also in the United States, extending from the fur countries as low as South Carolina. It is reported to have been discovered breeding even in Iceland. The nest, which is com-

posed of dry grass and down, is placed near the edge of fresh water in a marsh. The eggs are seven or eight in number, and of a uniform buffy white colour, tinged with green.

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## DUCK, GARGANEY.

*ANAS QUERQUEDULA, Temm.*

The Garganey is met with in various parts of England during winter and spring, but in limited numbers. It was not observed in Scotland until March, 1841, when four birds, said to have been shot near Stirling, were exposed for sale in the market at Edinburgh. It is uncertain whether they remain to breed in that country. It is rare in Ireland also, and in Wales. It is found in Sweden during summer, and is plentiful in Holland and Germany. It breeds in France, arriving there in March and breeding in April. The nest, which is composed of dry grass, &c., is placed in a bunch of reeds. The eggs, from ten to fourteen in number, are of a buff colour.

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## DUCK, GOLDEN-EYE.

*ANAS CLANGULA, Lin.*

The Golden-Eyes make their appearance in this country in October, resorting to lakes, pools,

rivers, &c., and depart in April. The young birds and females are more numerous than the males in the southern parts of England, and flocks of males are occasionally seen in the northern parts. It breeds in the Arctic regions. The nest, which is said to be composed of grass, &c., is placed on the ground, and sometimes in the crevice of a rock or hole of a tree. In Lapland, the natives place boxes in the trees on the banks of the rivers, in which the Golden-Eye lays its eggs. These are of a greenish colour, and about two inches and three quarters long, by one inch and five-eighths in breadth. The plumage of the young bird resembles that of the female for the first six months, during which period it has been called the Morillon.

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## DUCK, HARLEQUIN.

*ANAS HISTRIONICA, Lin.*

This species, which is very vigilant, and never seen associating with other Ducks, is another of the winter visitors to our coast, but is of more rare occurrence than the Golden-Eye Duck, which it resembles in habits. Only a few individuals have been obtained in Britain. This species is not uncommon in many parts of North America, of Eastern Europe, and of Northern Asia. It is also found in Iceland and Newfoundland, in both of



which it breeds. It forms its nest of dry plants of various kinds, lining the interior thickly with down plucked from the lower parts of the breast of the female bird. The nest is found some distance from the sea-coast, by the side of some shallow lake, where it is placed under a thick bush, or concealed among the thick coarse grass. The female lays from six to eight eggs of a pale buff hue, tinged with green.

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## DUCK, KING.

### KING EIDER.

*ANAS SPECTABILIS, Lin.*

This species, which resembles the Common Eider in its habits, has been rarely met with in Great Britain. A small number are said to have been found breeding on one of the Orkney Islands, and they have been met with also on the Faroe Islands and in Iceland. The King Eider is common in many parts of the Arctic regions, to which it annually resorts in the breeding season; and but few retire far to the south during winter, at which season they are not unfrequently met with in the Atlantic Ocean, far distant from land. The nest and eggs are similar to those of the common species, but the eggs are smaller.

## DUCK, LONG-TAILED.

*ANAS GLACIALIS, Lin.*

This species inhabits the Arctic regions of both Continents, winging its flight in summer to the margin of the Polar ice, and in winter moving southward along the coasts, but not advancing far into the temperate regions. During winter it is very common in the north of Scotland—less so in the south of England. It has been found breeding in the Arctic regions and in Iceland. The nest, which is placed among the low bushes near the margin of a fresh water lake, is composed of a few stems of grass and is well lined with down. The eggs, of a pale greenish white, with a tinge of buff, are generally from six to eight in number. The food of the Long-tailed Duck consists of shell-fish, &c., for which it dives.

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DUCK, PINTAIL.*ANAS ACUTA, Lin.*

This elegantly-formed and beautifully-coloured species is not uncommon in winter and spring in some parts of England. It is rare in Wales, Cornwall, and Devon, but is more common on the coast of Dorset. It has been killed in Ireland in winter.

It is tolerably plentiful in Orkney, but has not been seen in Shetland. It frequents the inland lakes more than the sea-shore, and leaves these islands early in the spring. It is extensively dispersed over the continents of Europe and Asia, and not less so over that of North America. A few have been found breeding as far north as Iceland. The nest is placed among reeds and thick herbage. The eggs, from six to ten in number, are of a greenish white colour.

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### DUCK, COMMON POCHARD.

*ANAS FERINA, Temm.*

The Pochards arrive on our coasts in the end of October, when some betake themselves to marshes and pools, the others remaining in the bays and estuaries. It is found also in the Orkney and Shetland Isles, in Denmark, in Sweden, and in America, where they are common. It departs in March and April, betaking itself to the Arctic regions to breed, except a very few which are said to remain in Norfolk and Yorkshire for that purpose. The nest of the Common Pochard has been seen in Holland, placed among the rushes or other coarse herbage. The eggs, of a buffy white, are from ten to twelve in number.

## DUCK, RED-CRESTED WHISTLING.

*ANAS RUFINA, Temm.*

Although a well-known species, inhabiting the eastern parts of Europe, this handsome Duck does not appear to have been noticed as occasionally visiting this country, till one was shot near Boston, Lincolnshire, in the winter of 1826; after which, during the same winter, and at subsequent periods, several others were obtained, and more than one of them was seen in the London markets. Of the habits and nidification of this species little is known. Its food is stated to consist of shell-fish and aquatic vegetables. The egg has been described as of a uniform olive brown hue, about two inches in length and one inch and a quarter in breadth.

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## DUCK, AMERICAN SCAUP.

*FULIGULIA MARILOIDES, Vig.*

It is very much doubted whether the American Scaup, which is similar in appearance to the Common Scaup, but smaller in size, is a distinct species, or only a variety of the latter bird. Both species are found in America. Tarrell figures and describes an individual purchased in Leadenhall Market.

## DUCK, COMMON SCAUP.

*ANAS MARILA, Lin.*

This bird arrives on our coasts towards the end of October, and continues to increase until the middle of winter. In the estuaries and along the flat shores, it is met with plentifully, often in very large flocks, and sometimes betakes itself to fresh water. About the end of March it leaves our shores. It is said to breed in Sutherlandshire, and has been found multiplying plentifully in Iceland and Finland, among the aquatic herbage or large stones near the edge of fresh water. It can scarcely be said to construct a nest, as it merely covers the eggs with a quantity of down. The eggs, from five to eight in number, are of a uniform clay brown colour, two inches and three-eighths in length and one and five-eighths in breadth.

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## DUCK, COMMON SCOTER.

*ANAS NIGRA, Lin.*

During winter the Common Scoter is found in considerable numbers on various parts of our coasts. It inhabits the open sea and estuaries during the greater part of the year. The Scoter is found in the northern parts of Europe, Asia, and America; also on the coasts of France and Holland. It

resorts also to Iceland, for the purpose of breeding. The nest is formed of grass and other vegetable matter, mixed and lined with a quantity of its own down. The eggs, about six in number, are of a pale buff, tinged with green.

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## DUCK, SURF SCOTER.

*ANAS PERSPICILLATA, Lin.*

A very few instances are recorded of this species having been taken in Great Britain. It occurs occasionally on the coasts of Europe, and is abundant in winter on the eastern shores of America. The nest has been found in Labrador, North America, a short distance from the sea coast, by the side of a fresh water marsh, and placed among the tall leaves of a bunch of grass. It was entirely composed of withered and rotten weeds, and formed into a well-rounded cavity, about six inches in circumference, lined with a quantity of down, and containing five eggs of a pale yellow colour.

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## DUCK, VELVET SCOTER.

*ANAS FUSCA, Lin.*

This species, which is most abundant on the eastern coasts of Scotland, makes its appearance

about the end of autumn and departs about the middle of April. They procure their food by diving, at which they are remarkably expert, and can remain a long time under water. In the summer they return to the Arctic regions to breed, and have been occasionally found breeding in Lapland. The nest is constructed near the borders of a lake, not far from the sea, under the low boughs of bushes which are matted together with the coarse herbage. It is large, almost flat, and very thick, the feathers of the female, but not usually down, being used in its construction. The eggs, generally six in number, are of a pale cream colour tinged with green.

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## DUCK, COMMON SHIELDRAKE.

*ANAS TADORNA, Lin.*

This very beautiful bird is a permanent resident in Britain, but is sparingly met with along our coasts, in moist places suitable to its habits. It is generally observed in pairs all the year round, although frequently in winter and spring large flocks may be seen. It feeds chiefly in wet pastures near the sea, in marshy places and on wet sands. It walks with ease, and flies with speed in the manner of the Wild Duck. The nest is generally placed in a hole in the sand, or pasture ground near the shore, and is lined with down. The eggs,

from eight to twelve in number, are of an oval shape, thin-shelled, glossy, and white, slightly tinged with red, and about three inches in length and two inches in breadth. The young, as soon as they are hatched, betake themselves to the water.

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### DUCK, RUDDY SHIELDRAKE.

*ANAS RUTILA, Pall.*

This species is very much dispersed, being found in the northern parts of Asia, the southern parts of Africa, and in some parts of Europe. Very few have been met with in England, and on the western coasts of Europe it is only an accidental straggler. It is said to build its nest in the holes of rocks, trees, &c., and to lay eight or nine white eggs.

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### DUCK, SHOVELLER.

*ANAS CLYPEATA, Lin.*

This species is rather rare in Britain, and is chiefly met with in winter, for the most part in the eastern counties. Some pairs are said to remain and breed in the marshes of Norfolk. In Scotland it has not been seen at any time. It is said to visit Holland, France, &c., and to be found in various



parts of Asia, Africa, and America. It builds its nest on the ground among rushes, &c. The eggs are from ten to twelve in number, of a greenish white colour.

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### DUCK, STELLER'S WESTERN.

*ANAS DISPAR, Temm.*

This species inhabits Asia and North America, and was obtained by Steller in Kamschatka, where it breeds upon rocks inaccessible to man. Specimens have been brought from the western side of North America, whence the name of Western Duck. It has been met with but rarely in Sweden and Denmark, and is known to visit the eastern part of the north of Europe and occasionally Germany. A single individual of this species, which is now in the Norwich Museum, was shot in February, 1830, near Yarmouth. It is stated that this duck flies in flocks, and never enters the mouths of rivers. Its food consists of marine insects, with molluscæ, naked and testaceous.

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### DUCK, COMMON TEAL.

*ANAS CRECCA, Lin.*

This beautiful and active species, the smallest British bird of its family, is generally dispersed,

but not plentiful, in the northern parts of Scotland. It frequents marshy places and the margins of lakes and rivers, seldom betaking itself to the open sea-coast unless in time of frost. It feeds on the seed of grasses, slender roots, and insects. In winter its numbers are considerably augmented by individuals from the Continent. Its nest, which is lined with down, is built on the ground. The eggs, from eight to ten in number, are of a yellowish white colour. The flesh of the Common Teal Duck is highly esteemed, and is perhaps superior to that of any other British Duck.

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## DUCK, TUFTED.

*ANAS FULIGULA, Lin.*

This species frequents the southern parts of Britain more than the northern. It arrives in this country about October, and leaves in April. It is generally dispersed, frequenting lakes, pools, marshes, the still parts of rivers, and sometimes the open sea. It is frequently seen on our shores, with the Pochard, the Scaup, the Golden-eye, and other oceanic Ducks. It feeds chiefly on insects, worms, &c., for which it dives. There is no known instance of its breeding in Great Britain. It resorts for this purpose to Lapland and Holland, where it builds its nest on the borders of inland lakes,

amongst the thick coarse herbage. The female lays from eight to ten eggs, rather pointed at one end, of a pale buff hue tinged with green.

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### DUCK, AMERICAN WIGEON.

*ANAS AMERICANA, Gmel.*

This bird is very similar in size and appearance to the Common Wigeon. The greatest distinction appears to be the difference in the size and form of the enlarged part of the wind-pipe, that of the European being much larger than that of the American species. Only two of these birds have been noticed in this country, and these were procured in a London market during the winter of 1837 and 1838. They are abundant during winter in New Orleans, being found in great numbers all along the shores of the Bay of Mexico, where they frequent not only the ponds of brackish water, but also the fresh water streams. They appear in May, chiefly in pairs, upon the coast of Hudson's Bay, where they remain to breed, departing in the autumn. The female is said to lay six to eight eggs.

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### DUCK, COMMON WIGEON.

*ANAS PENELOPE, Lin.*

The Wigeons begin to make their appearance in Britain towards the end of September, and depart

in the end of March or beginning of April. They are generally dispersed, but are particularly abundant in the southern parts of the island, where they frequent rivers, lakes, estuaries, and the open coasts. In March and April the Wigeon again moves northwards for the breeding season, only a few remaining in the north of Scotland to breed. The nest, composed of dry rushes and reeds, with a lining of down, has been found in Sutherlandshire, placed in the middle of a large rush bush, and containing seven eggs of a cream white colour. Their food consists chiefly of vegetable substances, and their flesh is highly esteemed.

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## DUCK, WILD DUCK, MALLARD, &c.

*ANAS BROCHAS, Lin.*

This species, the original of our domestic Duck, is found extensively dispersed in North America as well as in Europe. It occurs in variable numbers in all parts of this country, being more abundant in marshy and thinly peopled districts. As it is more numerous in winter than in summer, it is supposed that there is an autumnal immigration from the Continent. It removes in frosty weather to the shores and open seas. It is chiefly at night that it searches for its food, which consists of seeds, grasses, roots, insects, &c. It builds its nest on

the ground. The female lays from four to ten eggs of a greenish white colour. The young, as soon as they are hatched, swim and dive with great activity.

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### DUNLIN, PURRE, OR STINT.

*TRINGA ALPINA, Lin.*

About the end of August the Dunlins appear on our shores in flocks, and disperse themselves over the whole of Great Britain, continuing together till the end of spring, when they separate. The nest, which is placed in a hollow, is composed of bits of dry grass or heath. The eggs, of which there are always four, are large, pear-shaped, of a greyish green, spotted with brown and light purplish grey. The young are covered with down, and soon leave the nest. As soon as they are fledged, both they and the old birds betake themselves to the sea-coast. Their food consists of worms, insects, larvæ, and marine insects. They run with rapidity, probing the sand and mud with a light and quick motion.

## EAGLE, GOLDEN.

## RING-TAILED EAGLE.

FALCO CHRYSÆTA, *Lin.*

The Golden Eagle, though occasionally seen, and sometimes obtained, in the southern counties of England, and in Ireland, where a few specimens have been taken, is more exclusively confined to Scotland. It is found also in America, from the temperate to the Arctic regions, particularly in the latter ; as well as in Iceland, Scandinavia, Russia, and Germany. In the districts it inhabits it commits great havoc among the lambs, roebucks, fawns, grouse, &c., and it is only under the pressure of extreme hunger that the Golden Eagle will feed upon a dead carcase. It breeds in the north of Scotland. Its nest is usually placed upon some shelf of rock or jutting platform of stone, and is of large dimensions, formed of sticks, heath, &c. The eggs, generally two in number, are of a greyish white hue, more or less coloured with spots of reddish brown or purple. In the young bird, until its third year, the tail, two-thirds of its length, is white, the remainder, or end part, blackish brown. In this state it is the Ring-tail of different authors.

## EAGLE, SPOTTED.

FALCO NÆVIUS, *Temm.*

This species is found in India, Asia Minor, Siberia, Northern Africa, France, &c. The adult bird is very like the Golden Eagle in appearance, but about one third smaller. The fact that the young birds of the year have the tips of all the small and large wing-coverts and the tail feathers marked with a patch of pale wood brown has given rise to the name of Spotted Eagle. In this stage of plumage two or three individuals have been taken in Great Britain. One, on the authority of Mr. Robert Davis, of Clonmel, was shot in January, 1845, on the estate of the Earl of Shannon, and is now in the possession of Samuel Moss of Youghal, County Cork; and another is reported as having been killed in Cornwall in December, 1860, on the estate of Mr. Rodd, of Irebartha Hall, in a large covert adjoining the open and extensive moors near the Cheese-ring and Kilmar. The Spotted Eagle builds on high trees, and lays two whitish eggs, slightly streaked with red.

## EAGLE, WHITE-TAILED.

## SEA EAGLE.

FALCO ALBICILLA, *Penn.*

CINEREUS, GREAT ERNE, OR SEA EAGLE.

The White-tailed Eagle is much more common as a species than the Golden Eagle, and on some parts of the coast of Scotland, more particularly in the north, is frequently observed. It may be seen perched on the high rocks and cliffs that overhang the sea, watching its opportunity to capture the food in which it delights. Their favourite food consists of fish, which they pounce upon while swimming near the surface of the water. Aquatic birds also frequently become their prey. This species possesses astonishing capacity of enduring the cravings of hunger, and instances are on record of its having shewn undiminished vigour after fasting for four or five weeks. Being of a roving disposition, it has frequently been killed in England, Ireland, and Wales. They generally breed in the most inaccessible rocks and cliffs. The eggs, one or two in number, are of a uniform greyish white colour, about the same size as those of the Golden Eagle. In the young bird the tail feathers are of a dark brown colour, in which state it has been called the Sea Eagle by many authors.



## EGRET, LITTLE.

ARDEA GARZETTA, *Lin.*

This is one of the most elegant, as well as one of the smallest, of the Heron tribe. Its colour is of the purest white, and on the head, breast, and shoulders it is adorned with soft silky flowing plumes, which give the bird a beauty quite peculiar to itself. These delicately formed feathers are six to eight inches in length, with slender shafts, twisted and bent down towards their tips. The Little Egret is found in various parts of Asia, Africa, and the south of Europe, and is known to migrate northward as far as Germany. In England it is merely an accidental visitor. It is said to build in marshes. The female lays four or five white eggs.

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## FALCON, GYR FALCON.

GREENLAND, OR ICELAND FALCON.

FALCO ISLANDICUS, *Penn.*

Under the appellation of Gyr or Jer Falcon there appear to have been two distinct species taken in England, one being named the Greenland Falcon, and the other the Iceland Falcon,

distinguished more by the shape than by the colour of the markings. Both species are only occasional visitors to this country; the Gyr Falcon being for the most part confined to the cold regions of both continents, and particularly Iceland, whence it was formerly obtained for the Royal Falconers in Norway. It preys chiefly on the Ptarmigan, and as winter approaches it leaves the mountains and follows them in their migration towards the sea shore. It breeds in the most remote and rocky districts of Norway and Sweden. The eggs, which are two inches and three-eighths long and about two inches broad, are mottled nearly all over with pale reddish brown on a dull white ground.

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## FALCON, PEREGRINE.

FALCO PEREGRINUS, *Penn.*

The Peregrine Falcon, which is rather inferior in size to the Jer Falcon, bears a great resemblance to it in form, and is even more graceful. It was formerly held in great estimation for hawking purposes. It is a permanent resident in Great Britain, in many parts of which it occurs, but more especially in the northern parts of Scotland and its islands. It is also found in Norway, Sweden, Lapland, and America. It preys chiefly on grouse and the smaller species of wild fowl.

The Peregrine Falcon begins to build early in the spring, the spot which it selects for its nest being on the shelf or in the crevice of a rock. The eggs, from two to four in number, are of a dull light red, spotted and blotched with deep red.

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## FALCON, RED-FOOTED.

### ORANGE-LEGGED HOBBY.

*FALCO RUFIPES, Selby.*

The Red-footed Falcon, which in form and size resembles the Hobby, has several times occurred in England, but has not been observed in Scotland. It is common in Russia, Austria, and Switzerland. Is an inhabitant of woods and thickets, and is said to build in the hollows of trees. The eggs are similar to those of the Hobby, but rather smaller.

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## FIELDFARE.

### PIGEON FELT.

*TURDUS PILARIS, Lin.*

This species migrates from the north to this country about the month of November, and returns to Sweden, Norway, and other northern countries about the middle of May. They gene-

rally arrive in considerable numbers and disperse themselves throughout the whole of Great Britain; extending their migrations, when the weather is severe, to various parts of the south of Europe. They generally remain together in flocks, although individuals are often seen singly or in pairs. It is a shy and wary bird, and is not often approached except when the weather is severe. Unlike the other species of this genus they associate in considerable numbers to breed and build in the pine forests, &c. of Norway, Sweden, and other northern parts, the nests being placed, along with the old ones of the preceding year, at various heights from the ground. They have been known to breed in this country. The nest is similar in its appearance to that of the Blackbird. The eggs, from five to six in number, are of a light blue with spots of dark brown, and not unlike those of the Ring Ouzel in appearance.

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### FLY CATCHER, PIED.

*MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA, Lin.*

This species is found in the southern provinces of Europe, and along the coast of the Mediterranean; also in France, Germany, and Italy. It is not so numerous as a species as the Spotted Flycatcher. It arrives in this country from the middle of April to the beginning of May, and departs in September.

It occurs in various parts of England, but is chiefly confined to the northern counties, where it also breeds, building its nest in the hole of a decayed tree. The nest is composed chiefly of roots and grass, or leaves and hay, &c., and is lined with hair and feathers. The female lays from five to eight eggs, of a pale blue colour, similar in appearance to those of the Redstarts.

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## FLYCATCHER, SPOTTED.

### BEAM BIRD.

MUSCICAPA GRISOLA, *Lin.*

This species is also common in the southern parts of Europe, and is found as far south as the Cape of Good Hope. It is one of our late summer visitors, seldom making its appearance before the middle of May, and departing again about the beginning of October. It is generally distributed in England; is found also in Ireland, and in limited numbers in Scotland. It frequents plantations, low, bushy hollows, orchards, and gardens. Its nest, which is formed of moss and small twigs, lined with hair and feathers, is often placed upon the ends of the beams or rafters in garden houses and other out-buildings. It also builds in the holes of trees and walls, or on the branch of a tree against

a wall, as has been observed in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. It lays four or five eggs of a greyish white, spotted with pale orange coloured brown.

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## GANNET.

COMMON, OR SOLAN GOOSE.

*SULA BASSANA, Bris.*

This species is found in various parts of the coast, and changes its locality with the season of the year. It has been observed in the Baltic, the west coast of Norway, Iceland, &c., and in considerable numbers on the Newfoundland coast. It has been seen as far south as Madeira and South Africa. This sea bird breeds in the Hebrides, St. Kilda, the Bass Rock, and other northern parts, where the nests are said to be placed so close together, that it is difficult to walk without treading on some of them. In the nest, formed of turf, weeds, and grass, they deposit a single egg, which, when first laid, is of a chalky white, but soon becomes discoloured. When the young birds are hatched, they are naked, but soon become covered with white down, through which the true feathers appear. These in the young are black, but in the adult state are changed to white.

## GOLDFINCH.

FRINGILLA CARDUELIS, *Lin.*

This elegantly formed and beautifully coloured bird is generally distributed in Britain, except in the mountainous districts. It is found in all the temperate and northern parts of Europe, and also as far to the south as the islands of the Archipelago. In autumn it feeds chiefly on the seeds of the thistle, dandelion, &c.; and in winter, on seeds of various kinds, for which it searches the fields. They do not assemble in large flocks, rarely more than twenty being seen together, but they are sometimes found associating with the Linnets. The flight of the Goldfinch is rapid, all its actions lively, its song sweet and varied. It usually nestles on trees, in gardens or plantations, forming a very neat nest of moss, lichen, grass, and other materials, warmly lined with wool, hair, and the seed down of the willow or thistle. The Goldfinch usually lays four or five eggs of a bluish white, scantily marked with orange brown spots towards the large end.

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 GODWIT, BAR-TAILED.
LIMOSA RUFA, *Selby.*

The Godwit, which is generally distributed, differs very little from the Curlew in its habits.

Two species occur in Britain, viz.—the Bar-tailed and the Black-tailed. The Bar-tailed Godwit appears in small flocks on our coast in the beginning of September. It may be observed on the muddy parts at the mouths of streams, where it is seen walking or running, occasionally probing the mud and sand in search of worms and other small animals, frequently in company with the Sand Pipers and Ring Plovers. It remains with us during winter, and disappears at the further end of April or the early part of May. It is only seen on its passage in Switzerland and France. It visits Finland and the countries to the eastward, but is very seldom seen on the islands or on the western shores of the Baltic. It is said to breed in Holland, and a few specimens of the egg obtained in Lapland have been well authenticated. The egg is similar to that of the Black-tailed Godwit.

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## GODWIT, BLACK-TAILED.

### RED GODWIT.

*LIMOSA MELANURA, Selby.*

This species can easily be distinguished from the Bar-tailed Godwit by the uniform black hue of its tail, two-thirds of that of the Bar-tailed having (as its name implies) brown and grey



bars across the tail feathers. The habits of the Black-tailed Godwit are similar to those of the last-named species. It breeds in small numbers in some of the English fens. The greater number appear to be migratory, visiting our coasts in October and departing in spring. It is much less numerous with us than the other species. The nest is placed on the ground, sheltered by herbage, and is made of leaves and grass. The eggs, generally four in number, are light brown, with a greenish tinge, covered with spots and blotches of a darker hue.

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## GOOSANDER.

MERGUS MERGANSER, *Lin.*

These birds may be considered as winter visitors, although some individuals remain to breed in the northern parts of Scotland. They are rarely found in the southern parts of England, except in severe weather; and are said to visit Ireland only in the winter. They are found in the northern parts of the Continent, and in winter have been seen in Holland, France, Italy, and other southern parts.

The Goosander is found also in the United States, Hudson's Bay, Greenland, and other north-

ern parts. At all seasons of the year it prefers the inland lakes to the sea-shore, but it is sometimes seen in summer fishing on the sea.

The nest, which is composed of grass, roots, &c., lined with down, is placed near the water. The eggs, seven or eight in number, are of a uniform buff-coloured white. The young birds are like the females in plumage, and the young males do not assume the adult plumage until the second year.

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## GOOSE, BEAN, ANSER.

### ANSER SEGETUM, *Gmel.*

The Bean Goose is the commonest species in Sweden, and is found in Finland, Ireland, Nova Zembla, and Iceland, where it breeds in considerable numbers. It is abundant also in Holland, Germany, Italy, &c., but is rare in Central Europe. It is a winter visitant to this country, migrating from the higher northern latitudes about the months of September and October, and betaking itself to the fens and stubble-fields, where it feeds. It has a preference for green corn as food, and of course commits great ravages in the fields. It is said to be very numerous on the Norwegian coast, where it breeds in great numbers, as also in Scotland, on the Sutherlandshire lakes. The nest is placed among the heath on the marshes. The female lays ten or twelve white eggs.

## GOOSE, BERNACLE.

*ANSER LEUCOPSIS, Temm.*

The Bernacles visit this country during winter, appearing in flocks chiefly on the western and northern coasts. Early in the spring they quit our shores and retire to Lapland, Greenland, and Spitzbergen to breed. They are found also in Holland and Germany. They are very shy and wild, but on being taken, grow in a few days as familiar as our tame Geese. They feed on grass, roots, aquatic plants, &c. The eggs, from six to eight in number, are of a greyish white colour, about five inches long and nearly two inches in breadth.

## GOOSE, BRENT.

*ANAS BERNICLA, Lin.*

This species, the smallest as well as the most common of the Goose tribe which annually visit this country, is found on most of our sea-coasts. As the severity of winter approaches, they quit the northern regions in search of warmer climates, and arrive in England in considerable numbers, resorting to the rivers, lakes, and marshes of the interior parts. They feed chiefly on the long grass and plants which grow in the water. The Brent Goose breeds in the northern regions of both Continents, laying six or eight eggs of a pale greyish green.

## GOOSE, CANADA.

## CRAVAT GOOSE.

ANSER CANADENSIS, *Bew.*

This species of Goose, one of the largest of the tribe, is named the *Cravat*, from its having on the throat a white crescent-shaped band, which tapers off to a point on each side below the cheeks, extending to the hinder part of the neck. Specimens of the Canada Goose, apparently truly wild, are not of very uncommon occurrence in Britain; but as the species has long been domesticated in this country, it is not quite certain that these are to be regarded as other than emancipated birds, or their offspring. They appear in small flocks on the shores of Hudson's Bay, &c., previous to their departure southwards. They generally make their nest on the ground, a few pairs occasionally building on trees, by the sides of large rivers. The nest is roughly made, and contains six or seven eggs of a greenish white colour.

## GOOSE, EGYPTIAN.

ANSER ÆGYPTIACUS, *Temm.*

This handsome species is a native of Africa; and not only is the island of Sicily said to be much

frequented by them, but they are found occasionally in the south-eastern and other parts of Europe, from whence they have been brought into this and other countries, where they have been domesticated, and thrive remarkably well. Half reclaimed species are not unfrequently shot in England. This species appears to have been held in great veneration by the ancient Egyptians, as we frequently find a figure of it among the monuments of that celebrated people. The Egyptian Goose breeds freely in confinement.

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## GOOSE, GREY LAG.

*ANAS ANSER (FERUS), Lin.*

This species, the original of the tame breed, and which is found all over the world, migrates southward from the northern hemisphere in autumn and winter, and returns in the spring. They were formerly known to remain and breed in the fens of Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, and various other parts of Great Britain; but the increase of population and the cultivation of marshy places have almost entirely driven away these feathered inhabitants from their former haunts. In lieu, however, of the wild species vast multitudes of the domesticated ones are now kept in the same dis-

tricts. A few of the wild species have been known to breed in Sutherlandshire. They chiefly feed in the corn fields, to which they are very destructive. The female lays from six to nine eggs of a dirty greenish colour.

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## GOOSE, PINK-FOOTED.

*ANSER BRACHYRHYNCHUS, Temm.*

This species was first distinguished in 1833, by M. Baillon, from the Bean Goose, being smaller in size, having a shorter bill, its legs and feet of a pinky colour. It is much more common during winter in Great Britain than either the Bean or Grey Lag Goose, which species it very much resembles in its general appearance. Its habits in a wild state are also similar to those of the above-named species, but in confinement it does not associate with them. It has not been known to breed in a wild state in Great Britain.

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## GOOSE, RED-BREASTED.

*ANSER RUFICOLLIS, Mont.*

This beautiful species is a native of Russia and Siberia, whence they migrate southward in the

autumn and return in the spring. It is very rare in this country, only an occasional accidental winter visitant having been obtained here. The first specimen of which we have any information was taken near London in 1776, and is in the Newcastle Museum; another was caught near Wycliffe; a third shot near Berwick-on-Tweed; and several were killed, in 1813, in Cambridgeshire. It is seldom seen in the western parts of Europe, but is said to be found in the northern provinces of Russia.

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## GOOSE, SPUR-WINGED.

*ANSER GAMBENSIS, Jenyns.*

This species is a native of northern and western Africa, but its habits appear to be unknown. The only one of which we have any record as having been captured in England appears to have been presented to Bewick. It is said to have been killed in Cornwall, in June, 1821, and is now deposited in the Newcastle Museum. Individuals have been kept alive in confinement in this country for a number of years. It is more rare as a species than the Egyptian Goose.

## GOOSE, WHITE-FRONTED.

*ANAS ALBIFRONS, Gmel.*

This species forms a part of those vast tribes of the feathered race which swarm about Hudson's Bay, and the North of Europe and Asia, during the summer months, and are but thinly scattered over the other quarters of the globe. They visit the fens and marshy places in England, in small flocks, during the winter months, and disappear about the beginning of April. The eggs are of a dull yellowish green, with indistinct patches of a darker tint of the same colour; their length two inches and three quarters, their breadth an inch and three quarters.

## GOSHAWK.

*FALCO PALUMBARIUS, Lin.*

This species is common in France, Germany, Switzerland, and Russia, and has been found breeding in Lapland. It is seldom met with in England, but is frequently found in the wild and mountainous districts of Scotland. By falconers it was considered the most courageous of the short-winged Hawks, and was accordingly trained to the pursuit of Grouse, Pheasants, &c. Although it is nearly equal in size to the Jer Falcon, yet the shortness of its wings and its general contour



readily distinguish it from that species in all its stages of plumage. It builds its nest on lofty fir-trees in the outskirts of the forest, and lays from two to four eggs of a pale bluish white, without any streaks or spots.

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### GREBE, EARED.

*PODICEPS AURITUS, Lath.*

The Eared Grebe is abundant in the northern parts of Europe and America, and is met with also in southern climates. In winter it is found in many parts of England, but is not so common in Scotland. Some few occasionally breed in the fens of Lincolnshire, &c., but it is not frequently found during summer in this country. It prefers inland lakes and marshy swamps to the sea-coast. It makes a floating nest, and lays four or five white eggs.

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### GREBE, GREAT CRESTED.

*PODICEPS CRISTATUS, Lath.*

The Great Crested Grebe, the largest of its species, is met with in America, and on the various lakes of Northern Europe as far as Iceland, and southward to the Mediterranean. It is common in the fens and lakes in various parts of Great Bri-

tain, more particularly during winter, when, being found without its crest, it has also been named the Tippet Grebe. When it breeds it forms a large nest, which is concealed among the flags and reeds growing in the water, upon which it floats. The female lays four or five eggs, two inches and a quarter in length, and one inch and a half in breadth. They are of a greenish white, but are generally much soiled with the damp herbage.

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## GREBE, LITTLE, OR DABCHICK.

*PODICEPS MINOR, Lath.*

The Little Grebe, the smallest of the Grebe tribe, is extensively distributed on the Continent of Europe, but has not been met with in America. It is a true aquatic, for it seldom quits the water, and ventures rarely beyond the sedgy margins of the lake where it has taken up its abode. It seldom goes out to sea, but confines itself to the lakes and rivers, and is an excellent diver. The nest is composed of a vast quantity of grass and water plants placed in the water, so that the female hatches her eggs amidst the continual wet, the warmth of her body causing fermentation of the herbage and assisting incubation. The eggs, from four to six in number, are of a yellowish dull white colour, generally much stained by the moisture of the nest.

## GREBE, RED-NECKED.

*PODICEPS RUBRICOLLIS, Lath.*

This species is common during winter in Great Britain, but rare in summer. It has been found, as well as all other species of Grebes, in the Frith of Forth, Northumberland, Devonshire, and various other parts of England. It is not uncommon in America, and is abundant in the eastern parts of Europe. The uniform reddish chestnut colour on the neck, from which the species derives its name, is observed only during summer.

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## GREBE, SCLAVONIAN, OR HORNED.

*PODICEPS CORNUTUS, Lath.*

This Grebe is rather larger than the Eared Grebe, which species it very much resembles in plumage during winter. It is more extensively distributed in this country, where it occasionally breeds. It is abundant in the northern and temperate parts of both continents, where it also breeds. Its nest, for which it chooses a situation similar to that of the other Grebes, is a somewhat bulky construction. Its eggs are of the same shape as those already described.

## GREENFINCH.

## GREEN LINNET.

FRINGILLA CHLORIS, *Lin.*

The Greenfinch is generally dispersed in this country, in which it is a permanent resident, and is found throughout the greater part of Europe. The natural notes of this species are few, and it produces nothing worthy of the name of song. It is, however, capable of imitating the note of other birds, when in a state of confinement, to which it becomes familiar. It is a late breeder. The nest is generally composed of moss and wool, interwoven with a lining of hair and feathers, and usually placed in a thick hedge or bush, but occasionally in the ivy encircling some tree. The eggs, four or five in number, are of a bluish white, speckled, chiefly at the larger end, with light orange brown. In autumn Greenfinches collect in large flocks, which until spring search the stubble fields and stack-yards, often in company with Yellow Buntings and Linnets.

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 GREENSHANK.
TOTANUS GLOTTIS, *Selby.*

This species is generally dispersed in England and some of the southern parts of Scotland during

winter, when it is seen in small flocks here and there on the sea-shore and adjacent marshes. In the spring the greater part of them disappear, but a few remain in the north of Scotland to breed. Their summer residence is the northern regions of Russia, Siberia, &c., and they are also met with in various parts of both Asia and America. Their nests, composed of fragments of plants, have been found in Sutherlandshire, placed on the ground in a shallow cavity. They are also known to breed rather plentifully in Lapland. The eggs, four in number, are two inches long and an inch and three-eighths in breadth. In colour they are of a pale yellowish green, spotted with dark brown and light purplish grey.

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## GROSBEAK, PINE.

*LOXIA ENUCLEATOR, Lin.*

This species seldom visits our island, and even when it is found within our bounds, which is only at occasional intervals, its range is chiefly confined to the northern districts of Scotland, where the pine is a natural product of the country. It inhabits the regions of the Arctic circle, and is a denizen of Sweden, Norway, and similarly situated countries of Europe, Asia, and North America. It is also found in Finland, where, as now ascer-

tained, it breeds, eggs having been brought from that country. The eggs, which are not quite so large as those of the Starling, are four or five in number, and of a bluish colour, blotched with orange brown.

## GROUSE, BLACK.

BLACK GAME, OR BLACK COCK, FEMALE GREY HEN.

*TETRAO TETRIX, Lin.*

This species is more widely dispersed throughout the central parts of Europe than any of the other varieties of the same tribe. It is found in Germany, France, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Russia, where it is very common. It abounds throughout the Highlands of Scotland, and is also found in some of the Hebrides. In the southern parts of England it is confined to a few of the wildest uncultivated tracts, such as the New Forest in Hampshire, Dartmoor and Sedgemoor in Devonshire, and the heaths of Somersetshire. It is sparingly met with in Staffordshire and in parts of North Wales, but in Northumberland it is very abundant. The bases of the hills in heathy and mountainous districts, which are covered with a natural growth of birch, alder, and willow, and intersected by morasses clothed with long and

coarse herbage, as well as the deep and wooded glens so frequently occurring in such extensive wastes, are the situations best suited to the habits of these birds, and most favourable to their increase. The nest is merely composed of a few dried stems of grass, placed on the ground under the shelter of a tall tuft or low bush, and generally in marshy spots where long and coarse grasses abound. The female deposits her eggs in May. They are from six to ten in number, and are of a yellowish grey colour, blotched with reddish brown.

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## GROUSE, RED.

### RED GAME, OR MOOR FOWL.

*TETRAO SCOTICUS, Penn.*

This beautiful species, so exclusively British (as its geographical distribution has not been hitherto found to extend beyond the limits of these islands), is plentiful in the elevated heathy parts of the northern counties of England, and very abundant on those wild wastes that occupy so large a portion of the Highlands of Scotland. It is also scantily met with in the mountainous districts of South Wales, and inhabits the moors and bogs of Ireland. Heathy tracts are the situations peculiarly favour-

able to the nature of this bird. The nest (scarcely deserving that appellation) consists of a few withered stems that line the shallow cavity wherein the eggs are deposited, and is placed on the ground in a tuft of heath. The female begins to lay in March or April. Her eggs, from eight to twelve in number, are of a greyish white, blotched with umber brown.

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## GROUSE, WHITE.

### PTARMIGAN.

#### TETRAO LAGOPUS, *Temm.*

This species is found in all the Alpine districts of Central Europe, and northward as far as Greenland. In this country it is only to be met with in the Highlands of Scotland, or in the Hebrides and Orkneys. Formerly it was occasionally observed on the mountainous ridges of Cumberland and Wales. It is fond of lofty situations, where it braves the severest cold, and lives on the highest mountains, particularly those of which the summits are covered with fragments of rock, by its close resemblance in colour to which it is enabled to escape its numerous inferior enemies in autumn. At the approach of winter they collect into large flocks, and descend



from the summits of the hills to the lower ridges, where they chiefly remain during that inclement season, occasionally burrowing in the snow, under which they not only find a warm and secure habitation, but, by penetrating to the surface of the earth, are enabled to obtain a sufficient supply of food during the most severe weather. They pair early in spring, the female laying her eggs upon the bare ground, among the stones. The eggs are similar in shape and colour to those of the Red Grouse, but somewhat smaller, and generally marked with more diminutive blotches.

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## GUILLEMOT, BLACK.

URIA GRYLLE, *Lath.*

This species is distributed over all the northern coasts of Europe and America. It is rather numerous in many localities of Great Britain, more particularly the north of Scotland during winter. The Black Guillemot sits lightly on the water, paddles about in a very lively manner, dives with rapidity, opening its wings a little, like the other species of the same bird, and flies under water with great speed. All the breeding places in this country are to the north of the Tweed and Solway.

It does not deposit its eggs on the bare rocks, like most of its genus, but in crevices or under stones or blocks. They are often three in number, but more commonly two, and are of a greyish white colour, with blotches and spots of dark brown and purplish grey.

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## GUILLEMOT, BRUNNICK'S.

URIA BRUNNICHII, *Sabine*.

Brunnick's Guillemot is at once distinguished, at any season of the year, from our common Guillemot by the shortness, stoutness, and regularity of its bill. This species has occasionally been met with in the Orkneys and the Shetland Islands, on the coast of Kerry in Ireland, and on the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Spitzbergen, and the Arctic Sea, &c. One example is said to have been killed as far to the south as the vicinity of Naples. It does not differ in its habits and food from the common Guillemot. It is said to breed at Grimsey, an island situated about forty miles from Iceland, in company with the common Guillemot, the eggs greatly resembling each other.

## GUILLEMOT, COMMON.

### FOOLISH GUILLEMOT.

*URIA TROILE, Lath.*

The Common Guillemot is found in various parts of the northern hemisphere, including Great Britain. Many individuals of this species remain on our coasts during winter, and in summer are met with in vast numbers on particular rocks, either on the coast or in islands, where they may be seen standing in rows, nearly erect, on the ledges, or sitting on their egg. The Common Guillemot builds no nest, but deposits its eggs on the bare rock. The eggs are extremely large, three inches and a quarter in length and two inches in breadth, pear-shaped and rough on the surface. Some are white, marked with a greenish blue; others verdigris green, marked with lines and spots of dusky brown. The young seldom go to the water until well grown.

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## GUILLEMOT, RINGED.

### OR BRIDLED GUILLEMOT.

*URIA LACRYMANS, Temm.*

This species, which differs from the Common Guillemot only in the white mark which encircles the eyes and passes down each side of the head,

inhabits the same localities, and is even found in company with it on various parts of our coast, particularly in Wales. It has also been taken on the coasts of Yorkshire and Durham. In its habits and the choice of food, it is described as very closely resembling the species already named. It is reported to breed at Grimsey, in close proximity to the two former species. The eggs, which are said to resemble those of the Common Guillemot, being placed lower down the rocks, are more difficult to obtain.

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## GULL, BLACK-HEADED.

### PEEWIT GULL.

#### *LARUS MARINUS, Lin.*

This species, which is very numerously dispersed along our shores, often congregates in estuaries and near the mouths of rivers during the cold season. They frequently make incursions inland, searching the pastures and ploughed fields for worms, &c., especially in stormy weather. In spring they betake themselves to particular marshes or lakes, on the tufts along the shores of which they form their nests, which are composed of rushes and sedges. The female lays two or three, sometimes four eggs of an olivaceous-green or light brown colour, spotted and blotched with brownish black and purplish grey, about two inches long and an inch and a quarter in breadth.

## GULL, BUFFON'S SKUA.

*LESTRIS BUFFONII, Bois.*

This species, the smallest of the Skua Gulls which visit our islands, is an inhabitant of the northern regions. It is of rare occurrence on our coasts, where it appears merely as a straggler. It breeds in the Arctic regions of both continents, and extends in winter as far north as the Gulf of Mexico. On the coasts of Europe it is very rare at that season. Its habits are in all respects similar to those of the other Skuas. The authentic specimens of its eggs which have been obtained from Iceland are similar in their appearance to the eggs of the other Skuas, but smaller.

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## GULL, BONAPARTE'S.

*LABUS BONAPARTII, Rich.*

This handsome species of small Gull was first recognized as a visitor to Europe in 1848, one having been shot in Ireland, in the early part of that year, on the river Lagan, near Belfast, since which time some few examples have been obtained in England and Scotland. It is generally distributed throughout the fur countries of North America, and is also found in Greenland. It appears

very familiar when seen, and is easily captured. During winter it frequents the harbour of Charleston, but none are seen at that season near the mouths of the Mississippi.

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## GULL, COMMON.

### WINTER GULL.

*LABUS CANUS, Lin.*

The Common Gull is permanently resident in Britain, and common along the shores of the Continent, but has not been observed in America. Large flocks often traverse the interior of the Continent in winter and spring, and during the breeding season they are found dispersed along the shores of England and Scotland, abounding most in the northern parts of the latter country, and in the Orkney Islands and the Hebrides. The nests, which are rather bulky, contain two or three broad oval eggs, two inches and a quarter in length and one inch and a half in breadth, of various tints of brown or greenish grey, dotted and spotted with dark brown and purplish grey. The eggs, like those of the other Gulls, afford delicate eating.

## GULL, COMMON SKUA.

*LESTRIS CATARRACTES, Mont.*

This Skua, or Bonxie, as the Shetlanders call him, is seldom met with on the coasts of England, or even of Scotland. So far as the British territories are concerned, he appears to be limited almost to the Shetland Islands, of three or four hill tops of which he has taken special possession. This undaunted species attacks with great fury any person, however armed, that approaches his haunts in the breeding season. His manner of walking, swimming, and flying is similar to that of the other Gulls, but more vigorous. He feeds on fishes, and occasionally young birds, obtaining a great part of his subsistence by harassing the larger Gulls until he forces them to disgorge part of the contents of their gullet. The nest is made among the grass; and the eggs, generally two, sometimes three in number, are olive brown varied with dusky spots.

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GULL, GLAUCUS.*LARUS GLAUCUS, Bew.*

This large species of Winged Gull is dispersed during summer over the Arctic seas; but as winter approaches it advances into the temperate regions. It is said to be common in Russia, and

has been observed as far north as Nova Zembla. It was first introduced to notice as a British species in 1809, a specimen having been obtained in immature plumage in Shetland, since which time other examples have been met with in the Hebrides and the Frith of Forth. It has also been observed on various parts of the coasts of England ; but has not been found breeding with us. The eggs are of a broad oval form, and of a pale yellowish grey colour, dotted with dark brown and blotched with purplish grey spots.

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## GULL, GREAT BLACK-HEADED.

*LARUS MARINUS, Lin.*

This species is generally dispersed along our coasts, as well as those of the Continent and of North America. It is vigilant, shy, and suspicious in disposition. It has a strong sedate flight, and often soars and sails in the air like the Eagle. It also swims with ease, and floats very buoyantly. It emits various cries, some loud and clear, others like the sounds of laughter. On the coasts of England it has few breeding places, but on the islets of the north and west of Holland great numbers annually settle. The nest is generally made in a cavity in the turf, or in a crevice of the rock, and is composed of various dry plants. The eggs, two or three in number, are three inches



long and two inches and a quarter broad. In colour they are of a pale yellowish or greenish grey, spotted and blotched with blackish brown umber and pale purplish grey.

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## GULL, HERRING.

### SILVERY GREY GULL, WAGEL.

*LARUS FUSCUS, Lin.*

The Silvery, or Herring Gull, as it is also called, is nearly as large as the last-named species, and is by far the most numerous of our larger Gulls. Its flight is strong, buoyant, direct, and unwavering, when it is proceeding towards a distant place. When engaged with a shoal of fry, it hovers over the water, mounts upwards, vibrates its wings, touches the water lightly with its feet, and picks up its prey without alighting. During tempestuous weather it often flies inland. It breeds usually in great numbers on small unfrequented islands, or on remote rocky coasts, forming a bulky nest, and laying generally three eggs, averaging two inches and three quarters in length, an inch and a half in breadth, of various tints of grey or olivaceous brown, clouded or spotted with dark brown or purplish grey.

## GULL, ICELAND.

## LESSER GLAUCUS GULL.

LARUS LEUCOPTERUS, *Eyton.*

This species is not unfrequently met with in Great Britain and Ireland during the winter season. It is said to breed in the higher northern regions, and to come to Iceland and other more southern latitudes in winter. As a bird of passage, its habits differ from those of the Great Glaucus Gull, which resemble those of the Great Black-backed Gull. This species has more affinity in this respect with the Herring Gull. Its flight is very graceful. These Gulls often sit by hundreds on a piece of ice, and in that way are drifted many miles.

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## GULL, IVORY.

## WHITE GULL, OR WHALE BIRD.

LARUS EBURNEUS, *Bew.*

This bird inhabits the Arctic regions of both continents, and particularly the coasts of Spitzbergen and Greenland, on the cliffs of which it breeds. It is said to be less shy than Gulls generally are, and is nearly as fearless as the Fulmer, with

which it associates while feeding on dead whales. It has also, we are informed, a strong and harsh voice. Except when engaged in breeding, it is occasionally met with on the open sea. Very few instances of its visiting Britain have been recorded. The first specimen described appears to have been a young bird shot in Balta Sound, Shetland, in December, 1822. Others have since been killed in the Frith of Clyde, and on the west coast of Ireland.

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## GULL, KITTIWAKE.

### TARROCK.

#### *LARUS TRIDACTYLUS, Lath.*

The Kittiwakes arrive along our coasts the end of April, and generally disappear in October. They build their nests in vast numbers on high maritime cliffs, generally such as are frequented by Auks, Guillemots, and other sea-birds—breeding places which are much more numerous in Scotland than in England. The nests, which are generally placed on the lower parts of the cliffs, are bulky in shape, and are formed of grass and sea-weeds. They each contain two or three eggs of a broad oval form, about two inches in length and an inch and a half in breadth. They are of a pale yellowish grey, greenish white, or light

olive green, dotted all over with dark brown and pale purplish grey spots. The Kittiwake walks little, and with anything but ease, owing to the shortness of its legs, but has an easy buoyant flight.

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## GULL, LAUGHING.

*LARUS ATRICILLA, Lin.*

This species ranks merely as an accidental straggler in this country, a very few individuals only having been seen in the south of England. It is said to be abundant on the coasts of the Mediterranean, and is also plentiful in the southern parts of the United States. It is similar in appearance to the common Black-headed Gull, but rather larger. The head, too, is of a darker brown hue, and the breast and lower parts are tinged with rose colour. It breeds in the United States, and lays three eggs, usually of a light earthy olive, blotched and spotted with dull reddish brown, and some black, the markings more abundant at the larger end.

## GULL, LESSER BLACK-BACKED.

## YELLOW-LEGGED GULL.

LARUS ARGENTATUS, *Gmel.*

This species is generally dispersed along our coasts, on which it is permanently resident, but is more numerous in the northern than in the southern parts of the island. It breeds on unfrequented island headlands, and sometimes on islets in lakes. The nest is large, and generally contains three eggs, which are usually yellowish brown, light brown, or olivaceous, with spots and patches of purplish grey and dark brown. The flight of this bird is peculiarly elegant, more easy and buoyant than that of the Great Black-backed Gull. In winter many advance southward, but some remain during that season even in the most remote northern parts.

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GULL, LITTLE.LARUS MINUTUS, *Gmel.*

A few individuals of this species, in the immature state, have been met with in England, Scotland, and Ireland. It is said to occur in the Mediterranean at all seasons, and to extend even to Greenland, but to be of rare occurrence on

the coasts of Western Europe. An adult bird in summer plumage, with fine black head, was killed on the Shannon, in Ireland, the only specimen in that state of plumage obtained in the British Islands. Professor Nilson says that this species is a summer visitor to the marshes in the vicinity of the Baltic and Gothland, where it breeds, but he has never seen the eggs. It is also said to be found in Germany, Holland, Russia, Siberia, &c.

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### GULL, MASKED.

*LABUS CAPISTRATUS, Temm.*

Two specimens of this bird, a male and a female, from Orkney, were in Mr. Bullock's collection; and another, from Shetland, was presented in 1831 to the Zoological Society of London. In March, 1833, one was shot near Belfast, and two others have been mentioned as having been either captured or shot. This bird, first described as a species by Temminck, is said to be smaller than the common Black-headed Gull, with shorter and more slender bill, and shorter legs.

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### GULL, POMARINE SKUA.

*LESTRIS POMARINUS, Temm.*

This species, which is smaller than the Common Skua, breeds in the Arctic regions, and appears

## GULL, WEDGE-TAILED.

ROSS'S ROSY GULL, CUNEATED-TAILED GULL.

LARUS ROSSII, *Rich.*

The first occurrence of this very rare Gull in this country appears to have been in Yorkshire, in February, 1847, when one was killed by Lord Howden's gamekeeper, in a ploughed field near Milford, in the parish of Kirby. Its flight resembled the flight of any other Gull, and it did not seem at all shy. This Gull has been captured once in Ireland. Two specimens were obtained on the coast of Melville Island, on Sir Edward Parry's second voyage. It was also found by the same voyager in Waggait Straits, which is supposed to be one of its breeding places. It is to Commander James Clark Ross, who killed the first specimen which was obtained, that the species is dedicated. Of the peculiar habits or winter retreat of this Gull nothing appears to be known.

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HARRIER.

ASH-COLOURED OR MONTAGU'S.

FALCO CINERACEUS, *Mont.*

The resemblance this species bears to the Hen Harrier was without doubt the cause of its remaining so long unnoticed as a separate species. It differs, however, from that bird in several particu-

lars, of which the following are the principal. Though greatly inferior in weight, it exceeds the Hen Harrier considerably in dimensions, both as to length and extent of wing. The third quill feather is much longer than any of the others, and its wings, when closed, reach beyond the extremity of the tail, whereas in the Hen Harrier they are shorter than the tail by two inches. The Ash-coloured Harrier, though far from being numerous in England, has been found in most of the southern and eastern counties, but not farther north than Northumberland, where it breeds upon the moors and open lands. It is found also in Hungary, Poland, Austria, and occasionally in Italy. Its habits are similar to those of the Hen Harrier. It frequents furze-clad moors, and builds its nest at the bottom of furze bushes, using only a few sticks and a little moss and wool. It lays from four to five bluish white eggs, rather smaller than those of the other species.

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## HARRIER, HEN.

FEMALE CALLED RINGTAIL.

*FALCO CYANEUS, Lin.*

This species, though not very numerous, is more generally distributed throughout Britain than the former, frequenting low marshy situations or wide



moors. The flight of the Hen Harrier is always low, but at the same time smooth and buoyant. It feeds on small birds and the young of larger ones, occasionally on grouse and partridges, and often on young rabbits, hares, mice, frogs, &c. It breeds on the open wastes, and frequently in thick furze covers, placing its nest on the ground. The eggs, four or five in number, are of a pale bluish white, and round at each end. In the first year the young males are similar in appearance to the females, after which they gradually assume the grey plumage that distinguishes the adult.

## HARRIER, MARSH.

### MOOR BUZZARD.

*FALCO ÆRUGINOSUS, Lin.*

Marshy districts and moors are the favourite haunts of this species. It is rare in Scotland, but not uncommon in the most marshy districts of England and Wales.

The Harrier Marsh Hawk preys on waterfowl, especially young ducks, also on water-rats, frogs, lizards, fish, and insects. Its flight is slow and near the ground, but during the season of incubation the males often soar to a considerable height, and remain suspended in the air for a long period.

They build in the tall tufts of grass or rushes which grow in marshy places, and the female lays four or five nearly round eggs, entirely white.

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## HAWK, SPARROW.

FALCO NISUS, *Lin.*

This destructive and well-known species is remarkable for the great difference in size between the male and female, the former seldom measuring twelve inches in length, whilst the latter often exceeds fifteen inches. It is one of the boldest of its genus; and the female, from her superior size, is a fatal enemy to partridges and other game, as well as to pigeons. It flies low, skimming over the ground with great swiftness, and pounces on its prey upon the wing with unerring aim. It is common in most parts of the kingdom, particularly frequenting the lower grounds and well-wooded inclosures. It builds in low trees or thorn bushes, forming a shallow and flat nest, composed of slender twigs, and very similar to that of the Ring Dove, but rather larger. The eggs, of which from four to six are generally found, are of a pale blue colour, blotched more or less, chiefly at the larger end, with reddish brown. In the Orkneys, where it is abundant, it breeds in the rocks and sea-cliffs.

*in the  
flocks  
make  
a noise*

## HAWFINCH, OR GROSBEAK.

FRINGILLA COCCOTHAUSTES, *Temm.*

This species is plentiful in some districts of France, and common in the mountainous regions of Italy, Germany, Sweden, and part of Russia. Small flocks usually visit England, and less frequently Scotland, in the beginning of winter, remaining until the end of spring. They feed on seeds, and frequent the orchards and gardens in search of kernels. A considerable number, however, are permanently resident in this country. Nests containing the eggs and young birds have repeatedly been found in various parts of England, especially in the vicinity of Epping Forest. The nest is composed of decayed leaves and lichens, with a lining of fibrous roots. The eggs, four to six in number, are of a pale olive colour, spotted with black, and streaked with lines of a dusky hue.

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## HERON, BUFF-BACKED.

ARDEA RUSSATA, *Temm.*

This species occurs in Holland, Spain, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Persia, Egypt, Nubia, and Senegambia, and is not unfrequent in the southern

parts of Africa, where it is said to breed. It is common also in Java, but is not found in America. The first specimen obtained in Britain was a female, shot near Kingsbridge, in the end of October, 1805, and presented to Montague, who described it, and with whose collection it was transferred to the British Museum. The Buff-backed Heron is frequently observed in fields where there are cattle grazing. It feeds on insects. The eggs are of a pale blue colour.

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## HERON, COMMON.

*ARDEA CINEREA, Selby.*

The Common Heron frequents the margins of rivers, pools, and lakes, as well as the shores of the inlets of the sea, where he may be often observed patiently watching for his prey. In such situations he may be seen slowly walking among the mud and weeds, or perched on a stone close to the water, reposing on one foot, with his neck bent under the shoulders, sometimes remaining motionless for hours, until a fish or frog or other object attracts his notice, or he is roused by the apprehension of danger. The flight of the Heron, though seemingly heavy, is buoyant, and in moving to a distance it generally flies high, with its head between the shoulders, and the legs stretched out.

It breeds in society, nesting like the rooks on high trees, and forming Heronries, as they are termed. The eggs, of which from three to five are found, are of a bluish green, two inches and a quarter in length, an inch and three-quarters in breadth. In England, when hawking was a favourite pastime, this species enjoyed the protection of the game-laws.

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## HERON, GREAT WHITE.

### GREAT WHITE EGRET.

*ARDEA EGRETTE*, *Ptem.*

This species, which is said to occur abundantly in the eastern parts of Europe, and to straggle occasionally to its western shores, has been met with in a few instances in England. It is an accidental visitor to Germany, France, and Italy. It has also been taken in Corsica and Sardinia, where, however, it is not so common as among the islands of the Grecian Archipelago, Turkey, and Hungary. It feeds on small fish, reptiles, aquatic birds, insects, &c., and breeds on the ground among reeds and herbage, producing four or five large bluish eggs. The adult males and females are alike in plumage.

## HERON, NIGHT.

NYCTICORAX ARDEOLA, *Temm.*

The Night Heron is of a more robust form than the Bittern, to which, however, it is nearly allied. All the species of this family feed occasionally, if not habitually, by night; and although the one at present under consideration has been distinguished in this respect from the rest, it is no more a nocturnal prowler than the Bittern or Common Heron. It frequents the margins of lakes, pools, and rivers, preferring those which are plentifully furnished with reeds, sedges, and other aquatic plants. It feeds on reptiles, fishes, worms, &c. Although it is of rare occurrence in this country, it is extensively distributed not only in many parts of America, Asia, and Africa, but also in Europe; being found, among other places, in Holland, where it breeds plentifully, making its nest on the ground or on trees or bushes, and laying three or four pale blue eggs.

## HERON, PURPLE.

AFRICAN HERON.

ARDEA PURPUREA, *Lin.*

This species is very extensively distributed, not only in Asia and Africa, but also in Europe, ex-

tending northwards as far as Holland, where it is not uncommon. It has also several times been obtained in England, where, however, it ranks only as an accidental straggler. It feeds on frogs, insects, and sometimes mice, young birds, &c. It builds its nest on trees or bushes, and occasionally on the ground, laying three or four broad eggs, about two inches in length, and of a pale greenish blue colour. This variety of the Heron species has a sedate and slow, but not heavy flight, and is generally shy and suspicious.

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## HERON, SQUACCO.

*ARDEA BALLOIDES, Flem.*

The native locality of the Squacco Heron appears to be in the south-western parts of Asia, in Egypt, and in Nubia. It has been found in the countries bordering on the Caspian Sea, also in Italy, and occasionally in the middle of France. It has also been seen several times in the southern counties of England. One of several specimens obtained on the coast of Norfolk, was caught alive, having entangled itself in some fishing-nets hung out to dry.

It inhabits the banks of stagnant waters, morasses, the sides of rivers, and low lands near the sea-shore, and feeds on small fish, crustacea, and insects. It builds its nest in swampy situations, and occasionally on trees. The eggs are of a light blue colour.

## H O B B Y.

FALCO SUBBUTEO, *Mont.*

This bird, not numerous as a species, is found throughout Europe during summer, but at the approach of winter retires to warmer regions. In England it is among the number of our summer periodical visitors. It arrives in April, and, after performing the offices of incubation and rearing its young, leaves us for warmer latitudes in the latter end of October. It is elegant in form, and may be regarded as a miniature resemblance of the Peregrine Falcon. It is confined to the more southern and western parts of England, and does not appear to visit Scotland. Wooded and inclosed districts seem to be its usual haunts. Its favourite prey is the lark, but all kinds of small birds occasionally become its victims. When hawking was keenly followed, the Hobby was trained to the pursuit of young partridges, snipes, and larks. It chooses a high tree on which to make its nest. The female lays three or four eggs of a short oval form, speckled all over with reddish brown spots on a dirty white ground.

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H O O P O E.
UPUPA EPOPS, *Lin.*

This bird is abundantly met with in the south of Europe during the summer months, and is also



common in Holland, in the northern parts of Germany, in Denmark, and as far north as Sweden. In the winter it retires to Asia, where it is also found as a permanent resident, and has been known to breed in the towns and villages of Egypt. A few of these handsome birds generally visit Great Britain every year during their periodical migrations. The Hoopoe frequents low and moist situations in the neighbourhood of woods and thickets, where it is generally seen upon the ground, engaged in hunting after the insects and worms on which it feeds. It may sometimes also be observed hanging from the branches of trees, in search of the insects that dwell chiefly on the underside of the foliage. It builds in the holes of decayed trees, but when these cannot be obtained, makes use of the crevices of walls and rocks. The nest, which is formed of dry grass, lined with feathers or other soft materials, generally contains four or five eggs, of a greyish white colour, spotted with brown. It becomes in a short time very fetid from the accumulation of the remains of the insects with which it feeds its young, and probably also from the droppings of the latter. The author has one of these beautiful birds in his own collection, killed by himself in the New Forest a few years ago.

## IBIS, GLOSSY.

IBIS FALCINELLUS, *Temm.*

This bird is extensively dispersed from India and Egypt to Siberia and the northern parts of Europe, and even to America. Although many individuals have been obtained in England, it ranges only as a straggler in this country. Like the White Ibis, from which it was distinguished by the name of the Black Ibis, it was held in veneration by the ancient Egyptians, and figures of it are not unfrequently found in their sepulchres. It is one of the species that approach nearest in form to the Curlew; and it resembles the Heron in its habits and the choice of food, as well as in its mode of nesting. The eggs are of a bluish green hue.

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## JACKDAW.

CORVUS MONEDULA, *Lin.*

This well-known species is generally dispersed throughout England and Scotland, inhabiting deserted buildings, steeples, towers, and high rocks, and breeding in these places or in rabbit-burrows. The eggs, which vary from four to seven in number, are of a pale greenish blue, with small round spots of a dark brown and pale purplish hue. Although vigilant and suspicious in its nature, it often

resides in towns, where it picks up part of its food from the streets. It can be easily domesticated, soon becomes remarkably familiar, and may be taught to articulate various words distinctly. Like the Raven and Magpie, it has a propensity to carry away and conceal glittering articles.

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### J A Y.

CORVUS GLANDARIUS, *Lin.*

The Jay, which is known by its disagreeable cry, is common in many parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, particularly in districts where trees are abundant. Its food consists of acorns, beech masts, grain, and various products of the garden, amongst which cherries and peas are its particular favourites. It also devours insects and worms, pounces on mice, and will often not only suck the eggs, but destroy the young of small birds. Its nest, which is generally placed in the closest thickets of large woods, is formed of sticks, lined with the fibres of roots. The eggs, of which there are from four to seven, are somewhat smaller than those of the Magpie, and are of a pale bluish grey, faintly freckled with yellowish brown. Its cry, though harsh, is varied, and it can imitate the notes of other birds.

## KESTRIL.

FALCO TINNUNCULUS, *Lin.*

The Kestril, which is so generally distributed in most districts as not to be at all uncommon, appears to be the most numerous of our rapacious birds, and is not only found in this country, but in all parts of Europe and America. It is especially remarkable for its habit of hovering over the fields when searching for its prey, which consists chiefly of the shrew and other mice, lizards, worms, beetles, &c., in looking for which among the grass it balances itself, with a quivering motion of the wings, at a considerable height from the ground. At the commencement of the breeding season it is remarkably vociferous in nesting. It often takes possession of the deserted nest of a crow or magpie, but in rocky tracts breeds on cliffs or craggy banks. The eggs, from four to six in number, are of a reddish brown colour, variegated with darker blotches.

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 KINGFISHER, COMMON.
ALCEDO ISPIDA, *Lin.*

This beautiful bird is very generally distributed in various countries, in which it is also a permanent

resident, but it is no where common, and in northern parts is very rare. It inhabits the banks of clear rivers and brooks, preferring those that flow with an easy current, and whose beds are margined with willows, alders, or close bushes. It is usually seen perched upon a small bough overhanging the stream, or taking its station on a stone, stump, or rail, from whence it darts upon the small fish and aquatic insects that form its food. These birds breed in the banks of the streams they haunt, either digging a hole themselves, or taking possession of that of a water-rat, which they afterwards enlarge to suit their convenience, the hole always being found in a sloping direction. The nest is composed of bones and other indigestible parts of their food, which they eject in small pellets by their mouth. Upon these they deposit their eggs, which are from five to eight in number, and of a transparent pinkish white.

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### KINGFISHER, BELTED.

ALCEDO ALCYON, *Wilson*.

Two individuals of this species were met with in Ireland about the latter part of the year 1845, one in the county of Meath and the other in the county of Wicklow. This species of the Kingfisher, which

is much larger than the last, is said to be the only one inhabiting North America. It is migratory, and, like other birds which have visited Great Britain and Ireland from that Continent, has appeared about the period of migration. It retires to the West India Islands and the Southern States of North America in winter. It is a well-known inhabitant of the countries extending from Hudson's Bay to the tropics, generally dwelling on the banks of fresh-water streams, lakes, &c. The habits of this species are similar to those of the last. The nest is burrowed in some dry and sandy bank of earth, the hole serving as a resting and roosting place for several successive years. Here, on a few twigs, grass, and feathers, about six white eggs are deposited. The eggs measure one inch and a quarter in length by one inch in breadth, and are of a roundish form.

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## KITE, COMMON.

### GLEAD.

FALCO MILVUS, *Lin.*

The Kite is distinguished from the other species of this family by the superior elegance of its buoyant flight, as well as by its elongated wings and forked tail. It is generally distributed, but of rare

occurrence in any district. When searching for food it moves along at a moderate height, wheeling and gliding in an undulating course, and proceeding at intervals with motionless wings. It breeds early in the spring, in extensive woods, generally making its nest in the fork of a large tree. The nest is composed of sticks, lined with wool, hair, and other soft materials. The eggs are much rounded, and blunt at the smaller end, and are generally two in number. They are of a greyish white, speckled with brownish orange, principally at the larger end, but sometimes they are found quite plain.

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### KITE, SWALLOW-TAILED.

FALCO FURCATUS, *Wilson.*

This bird is distinguished from all the British species of Falcons by its very long and deeply forked tail, as well as by its peculiar colouring; the head, neck, and lower parts being white, the wings and tail glossy black. It is a native of the Southern States of North America, where it breeds. The nest, which is usually placed on the top branches of the tallest oak or pine tree, situated on the margin of a stream or pond, is composed of dry sticks, intermixed with moss, and lined with

coarse grass and a few feathers. The eggs, varying from four to six in number, are of a greenish white colour, blotched with dark brown at the larger end. The flight of the Swallow-tailed Kite is singularly beautiful, and its motions astonishingly rapid. It generally feeds while on the wing, making its prey not only of such small insects as grasshoppers, but also of snakes and frogs.

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## KNOT.

KNUT, RED, OR ASH-COLOURED SANDPIPER.

*TRINGA CANUTUS, Lin.*

This species arrives from the north in the beginning of September, and returns at the end of April or beginning of May. It occurs in flocks on all our shores, and is met with chiefly on sands and the margins of estuaries. It breeds in the northern regions of both Continents, living during summer in the marshes. Its food consists of worms, crustacea, insects, &c. The winter plumage differs to a considerable degree in colour from that of the breeding season. In winter, when it is called the Ash-coloured Sandpiper, the plumage is ash grey above, white beneath, and the neck and sides are streaked with dusky lines; while in summer the back is of a glossy black, variegated with yellowish



red, and the fore neck and breast of a yellowish red, whence this species derives the name of Red Sandpiper.

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## LARK, CRESTED.

*ALAUDA CRISTATA, Lin.*

This bird has some resemblance in form to the Sky-lark, from which, however, it differs in having a longitudinal crest, consisting of ten feathers in the shape of a cone, reclining backwards. The head and bill of this species are rather large in proportion to its size, for it is a small specimen of the feathered tribe, being only about seven inches long. As far as we have any record, only two instances are known of its having been met with in Britain. Of these, one was killed in Sussex, and the other in Ireland in 1836. Its extreme rarity in this country is a very singular circumstance, as it is a common bird in the fields and plains round Calais, where it remains all the year, as well as in many other parts of France, not to speak of Switzerland, Spain, Africa, &c., in which it is not a stranger. The nest, which the female makes on the ground in cultivated fields, is constructed very like that of the Sky-lark, and the eggs, of which there are said to be four or five, are of a light ash colour, with light and dark brown spots.

## LARK, SHORE.

*ALAUDA ALPESTRIS, Lin.*

The Shore Lark occurs in the northern parts of Europe, Asia, and America, migrating into the temperate regions in autumn. A few individuals of the species have been obtained in England. It breeds on the high and desolate tracks of moss-covered granite rock which extend for miles adjacent to the shores of Labrador. The Shore Lark embeds its nest in moss and lichens, which greatly resemble in colour the hue of its plumage. The nest is composed of fine grasses, with a lining of Grouse and other feathers. The eggs, of which, according to Naturalists, there are four or five, are of a large size and a greyish hue, with pale blue and brown spots.

## LARK, SHORT-TOED.

*ALAUDA BRACHYDACTYLA, Temm.*

This species is said to be very abundant in Sicily, and generally along the shores of the Mediterranean. One specimen is said to have been caught near Shrewsbury, in October, 1841. It makes its nest on the ground, and lays four or five eggs, of a uniform dull yellow hue, without any spots.

## LARK, SKY.

*ALAUDA ARVENSIS, Lin.*

Perhaps none of our native birds has attracted more notice, or is better known, than the Sky-lark, which is generally distributed in all parts of Great Britain. The peculiar habit, which has rendered it so conspicuous, of rising with a fluttering and somewhat spiral motion to a great height in the air, while performing its delightful song, which is protracted beyond that of any bird known, has often been made the theme both of prose and poetry. The Sky-lark's nest, which is placed in a hollow scraped in the ground, in a corner of a hay-field, or in an open pasture, is composed of withered grass rather loosely put together, and lined with finer fibres. The eggs, of which there are four or five, vary much in size and colour, though they are generally of a greenish grey, freckled with small spots of greyish brown.

## LARK, WOOD.

*ALAUDA ARBorea, Lin.*

The Wood-lark, which is considerably smaller than the Sky-lark, is not uncommon in the southern,

western, and midland districts of England, but of very rare occurrence in the northern parts of the kingdom. In Scotland it does not appear to have been seen at all, but it is partially distributed in Ireland. It is a delightful songster, surpassing the Sky-lark in the melodious richness, though not in the variety, of its notes. It frequently perches on trees and bushes, which the kindred species is not accustomed to do. It breeds very early in the spring, placing its nest on the ground, under the shelter of a tuft of grass or a low shrub. The nest is formed of dry grasses and stalks, lined with finer materials of the same kind, and usually with a few hairs intermixed. The eggs, four or five in number, are of a pale yellowish colour, marked with blotches of grey and umber brown. These birds do not congregate in flocks during winter, like the Sky-lark, but seem to remain in families during that period, from five to seven being generally observed together.

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## LINNET, COMMON.

GREY, BROWN, OR RED-BREASTED LINNET.

*FRINGILLA CANNABINA, Lin.*

The colours of the male of this species are so much brighter in summer, the forehead and breast

gularly wary, is commonly seen near the habitations of man. These birds are usually observed in pairs, and continue together the whole year. In winter they often assemble in numbers at night to roost in particular districts, but separate again during the day. Their nest, which is generally constructed in trees or bushes, and is of large dimensions for the bird, is outwardly composed of sticks, lined with a thick plastering of clay, on which is disposed a soft bed of the small fibres of roots and dry grass, covered over or arched, and with an aperture on one side. The eggs, which vary in number from four to eight, are of a yellowish grey colour, speckled with yellow brown spots, varying in their tints. Being very destructive to eggs and young birds, the Magpie is much persecuted.

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## MARTIN, COMMON, OR HOUSE MARTIN.

*HIRUNDO URBICA, Lin.*

The first appearance of the Martins, which are very generally dispersed throughout England, is a few days after that of the Swallows, and it departs about the same time. It seems to commence its northern migration in Africa, and even to cross the Mediterranean with the Swallow, but its power of flight requires longer time to perform the distance. On its first arrival it is usually seen in such warm and low situations as are most likely to fur-

nish it with a full supply of its natural food. If the weather is favourable, it commences nidification early in May, and builds in the upper angles of windows and under the eaves of houses, sometimes under the arches of bridges or against the face of rocks. The nest, which is well lined with a collection of straw, hay, and feathers, is formed outwardly of mud compactly worked and cemented by means of its bill, and is closed all round, with the exception of a small orifice, just of sufficient size to admit a passage to its inhabitants. The eggs are from four to six in number, of a transparent or pinkish white.

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## MARTIN, PURPLE.

*HIRUNDO PURPUREA, Lin.*

This species, which is said to have been obtained in Britain on one or two occasions, is a native of the United States of America. Resorting to human habitations, it is protected even by the American Indians, who, as a convenient place for a nest, hang on a neighbouring tree an empty gourd, in which a hole has been roughly cut. In this receptacle the Purple Martin makes its inartificial nest. The more civilized inhabitants of farms provide for the roosting of this bird by fastening nest boxes

against the wall. When it builds in a crevice or other spot which has not been prepared for it, the nest is found to consist of dried grass, leaves, moss, feathers, &c., and in breeding time contains from four to six white eggs. The Purple Martin feeds mostly upon the larger insects, such as wasps, bees, beetles, &c.

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## MARTIN, SAND.

*HIRUNDO RIPARIA, Lin.*

This bird, the earliest of the tribe in its visit to Great Britain, and the smallest of the genus ever seen in this country, is first observed about the end of March, and takes its departure about the middle of September. It is partially distributed throughout this country, and is said to be more numerous than the other species in the Orkney Islands, but is found in considerable numbers only in those districts which offer suitable situations for its peculiar mode of nidification. The places which it selects for this purpose are the precipitous sandy banks which border rivers. In these, by means of its bill and claws, it burrows horizontally to a considerable depth, and at the end of the hole makes a nest of hay, straw, feathers, &c., in which

it deposits four or five white eggs. In other respects its habits are similar to those of the kindred species, with which it often associates.

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### MERGANSEER, HOODED.

*MERGUS CUCULLATUS, Lin.*

The proper country of this beautiful bird, of the occurrence of which in England a few instances have been recorded, is North America, in the Arctic regions of which it breeds, retiring southwards early in September, and passing the winter in the bays and estuaries, as well as on the inland waters. They breed in holes and hollows. On a few dried weeds and feathers of different kinds, with a small quantity of down from the breast of the female, the eggs are deposited. These are from five to eight in number, and, except in size, resemble those of the Red-breasted Merganser.

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### MERGANSEER, RED-BREASTED.

BAY-NECKED GOOSEANDER.

*MERGUS SERRATOR, Lin.*

This species is frequent upon the lakes and rivers of Norway and Sweden, where they breed, as



well as in Russia, Greenland, and the fur countries of North America. It is abundant also in Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, &c. Its summer residence is in the northern parts of both Continents, from the colder temperate regions to the borders of the polar ice. In winter it advances southward, and is common in Scotland, where it betakes itself chiefly to streams and lakes, but also to estuaries and the open sea. Many breed in the Hebrides, Orkneys, and Shetland Islands, forming a bulky nest, which they line with down. The female lays from five to ten oval eggs of a cream colour, or very pale buff, two inches and a half in length and an inch and three-fourths in breadth.

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## MERLIN.

*FALCO TESSALON, Mont.*

This, the smallest British species of the genus, is by no means uncommon in many parts of Scotland, where it remains all the year. It is also found frequently in the north of England, but in the middle and southern districts it occurs only in autumn and winter. Inferior as this species is in size, it fully supports the fearless and daring character of its tribe, frequently attacking birds superior to itself in magnitude and weight. The Merlin

Hawk has been known to kill a partridge at a single blow. Its flight is low and rapid, and it is generally seen skimming along the sides of hedges in search of its prey. Its nest, which is rudely constructed, is placed on the ground amongst the heather. The eggs, varying in number from three to five, are very similar to those of the Kestrel, though rather smaller. They are of a light red or reddish white, confusedly dotted or blotched with dull red or brown spots.

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## MOOR HEN.

MARSH, OR WATER-HEN.

GALLINULA CHLOROPUS, *Lath.*

This bird is found in all parts of Britain and Ireland that are adapted to its nature and habits, such as marshy places, pools, lakes, still streams, mill dams, and even ditches, where it searches for its food, which it finds chiefly among the reeds and other aquatic plants along the shores. It swims with great ease and elegance, sitting lightly on the water, with its neck erect and tail obliquely raised. It dives with equal facility, and when surprised remains concealed under the water, with only the bill above the surface. It occasionally also hides

among the herbage, or under a bank. On land it runs with great facility, and often perches on stumps or trunks of willows, on which it sometimes forms its nest—a rather bulky construction, which, however, is usually placed on the ground among reeds or in the water. The eggs, of which there may be six, eight, or ten, are of a pale greyish yellow, or greyish brown, dotted with deep brown spots.

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## NIGHTINGALE.

### PHILOMELA LUSCINIA.

This bird is common in Sweden and in the northern parts of Germany, and arrives in Britain towards the end of April or the beginning of May, the males preceding the females by an interval of ten days or a fortnight. They disperse over the southern and eastern counties, and proceed as far north as the vicinity of York and Carlisle. Although supposed to have been heard in Scotland, none of them have ever been obtained there. It is of a very shy disposition, frequenting woods rank with underwood, close thickets, thorn brakes and hedges, and is seldom seen in the place of its retreat, being only discovered by its song. The variety, unri-

valled richness, and power of the Nightingale's song have been long celebrated, and its effect is still further increased by the hour at which it is heard, during the silence of a calm summer's night. The nest of this favourite bird, which is found on the ground, is constructed of withered oak leaves, and is lined with dry grass. The eggs, of which there are not more than four or five, are of a pale olive brown, often tinged with greyish blue.

## NIGHT JAR.

FERN OWL, OR GOATSUCKER.

*CAPRIMULGUS EUROPEUS, Lin.*

The Night Jar is a periodical visitant to this country, in which it arrives about the end of May, and from which it departs in September, or early in October. Its habits are somewhat peculiar. It flies in the dusk of the evening in gloomy weather, or by moonlight in the shade of woods, feeding on insects, especially moths and beetles, which it seizes on the wing. It produces a whirring noise at intervals, like the sound of a spinning-wheel, and occasionally emits a shrill whistle. During the day it rests till after sunset on the ground among furze or fern, or perched lengthways upon the

horizontal branch of some tree, such as the birch, &c. It breeds on the ground, making no nest, but generally selecting a dry spot where the ferns have prevented the growth of the lower herbage. It lays but two eggs, white, marbled with yellowish brown and grey. The young are at first covered with long white down.

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## NUTCRACKER.

NUCIFRAGA CARYOCATACTES, *Mont.*

The Nutcracker, which inhabits woods and forests in mountainous regions in many parts of Northern Europe, is a rare visitor to Great Britain, very few instances being upon record of its having been observed in this country. It obtains its name from the alleged habit of splitting with its bill the shell of nuts, or other hard fruits, on which it feeds. It ascends the trunks of trees with facility, and feeds on the various insects and larvæ that inhabit the bark and wood, as well as on nuts and the seeds of the different kinds of fir. It makes its nest in the hole of a decayed tree, and lays five or six eggs, of a yellowish grey colour, with spots or blotches of yellowish or wood brown.

## NUTHATCH.

SITTA EUROPEA, *Lin.*

The Nuthatch is not generally distributed in Britain, being of rare occurrence in the northern parts, and not hitherto observed in Scotland. Like the Creeper and Woodpecker, it ascends the trunks and branches of trees by means of its long curved claws, but without employing its tail as a support; and, unlike all our other birds, it descends in the same manner, head foremost. Besides insects, it feeds on the kernels of nuts, to obtain which it places the nut in a crevice found in the bark of some tree, and, with its head downwards, splits it by repeated strokes of its bill. It forms its nest, made of dead leaves, in the holes of trees, which, by means of plaster of clay, it contracts to a size barely admitting of its passage. Its eggs, of which there may be five or seven, are of a greyish white, spotted with reddish brown, and very similar to those of the Great Titmouse.

## ORIOLE, GOLDEN.

*ORIOULUS GALBULA, Lin.*

The Golden Oriole is said to arrive in the south of Europe about the end of spring, and to extend over France and many parts of Germany, but is rare in the northern countries. It has been met with in several counties in England, and in a few instances in Ireland. It inhabits woods and thickets, and feeds upon berries, grapes, and other fruits, as well as on insects. It breeds in some parts of France and Italy. The nest is formed of straw and dried grass, lined with finer materials and feathers, artfully suspended by its outer rim to the extreme fork of some lofty branch. It lays four or five white eggs, variegated with isolated dark brown spots. The parents are assiduous in the support of their progeny, which they feed with insects, and, if danger threatens, bold in their defence.

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## OSPREY, FISHING EAGLE.

FISH HAWK, OR BALD BUZZARD.

*FALCO HALIÆTUS, Lin.*

The peculiar habits of the Osprey necessarily limit its appearance to particular districts and

situations, for being strictly a fish-eating hawk, it is only in the vicinity of lakes, rivers, or such pools of water as abound with fish, that we can expect to meet with it. It is generally disseminated throughout Europe, and is also found in North America. It has been met with in several counties of England and Scotland, where it breeds on some of the lakes, such as Loch Lomond and Loch Awe. The Osprey, which is a powerful bird, captures fish by plunging down upon them when they approach the surface. Its flight is sedate, yet buoyant and graceful, and it hovers over the water with an undulatory motion of the wings. The nest, which is bulky, is placed on a rock, old building, lofty tree, or such elevated situation as the place may afford. The eggs, three or four in number, are somewhat round in form, of a yellowish white, with large patches of reddish brown.

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## OUZEL, RING.

*TURDUS TORQUATUS, Lin.*

The name of Ring Ouzel is given to this bird on account of the broad white band that encircles portions of the throat. It is common in Sweden, France, and Germany, but rare in Holland. Its periodical visits to our coasts are at an opposite



period to those of others of its genus that migrate, viz., the Fieldfare and Redwing, as it arrives in the spring, and immediately resorts to the mountainous districts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, preferring those of the most stony and barren nature. In these situations it breeds and rears its young, generally placing its nest, which in form and texture resembles that of a Blackbird, on some steep bank supported by a projecting stunted bush, or a tuft of grass or heath, sometimes also in the cleft or on the shelf of a rock.

The female lays from four to six eggs, which are of a pale bluish green, blotched with pale reddish brown freckles. As autumn approaches, the Ring Ouzel quits its mountainous haunts, journeys southwards, and about the latter part of October leaves this kingdom for warmer climates, where it passes the winter.

## OWL, BARN SCREECH.

### WHITE OWL.

*STRIX FLAMMEA, Lin.*

This species is more numerous and more extensively distributed in Britain than any other of its family. It is very seldom met with in the wilder and bleaker districts, its favourite haunts being in the cultivated and sheltered parts of the country,

where meadows and corn-fields foster the animals on which it habitually preys, which appear to be chiefly mice. Ruined buildings, the eaves of churches, church towers, barns, or hollow trees, are its usual places of abode, where in breeding time it lays its eggs, from three to five in number, and of a bluish white colour. The young are at first covered with white down. In its flight it occasionally utters loud screams, &c.

## OWL, EAGLE.

### GREAT HORNED OWL.

*STRIX BUBO, Lin.*

This species, which is equal in size to some of the largest Eagles, like all continental birds of prey occasionally visits this country in obedience to the instinct which prompts it to migrate; but the greater part of those which have been killed in England have escaped from confinement. Numbers also are taken in Sweden and Norway when young, brought up by the hand, and imported into Great Britain, where they not only live and thrive, but breed and bring up their young. In Ireland they appear to be quite unknown, none having been captured or killed in that country. This bird preys upon fawns, rabbits, the different species of grouse, rats, &c. It builds

amid rocks or on lofty trees, and lays two or three eggs, larger than those of a hen, round at each end, and of a bluish white colour.

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## OW L, H A W K.

*STRIX FUNEREA, Lin.*

An individual of this species was captured in March, 1830, off the southern coast of England, and another specimen is recorded as having been taken in 1847, near the Tatton Station, on the Bristol and Exeter Railway. It is a common species throughout the fur countries of America, from Hudson's Bay to the Pacific.

The Hawk Owl, from the formation of its head and feet and the length of its tail, appears to be a connecting link between the Hawk and the Owl. Contrary to the general habits of Owls, it flies and pursues its prey by day.

In the summer season it feeds principally on mice and insects, but in the snow-clad regions which it frequents in winter, neither of these can be procured, and it then preys mostly on Ptarmigan. Its nest, which it builds on trees, is composed of sticks, grass, and feathers, and it lays two white eggs.

## OWL, LITTLE.

STRIX PASSERINA, *Lath.*

Numerous instances are recorded of the capture of this bird in England, but as numbers of the young are annually imported alive into this country, it may be considered probable that they are not all naturally wild specimens. Hitherto none of this species have been found in Scotland, nor indeed in any country far north, but it is not uncommon in the southern parts of the continent. The Little Owl, like a few others of this species, occasionally preys by day. It inhabits ruins, church towers, and similar old buildings, where it also breeds, laying four or five white eggs of a round shape, like those of the other species.

## OWL, LONG-EARED.

HORNED OWL.

STRIX OTUS, *Lin.*

The Long-eared Owl is pretty generally dispersed throughout Europe and North America, where it is found to inhabit the woods at a distance from the sea-shore. It has been observed as

far north as Hudson's Bay. It is a constant resident in England and Scotland, occurring in the wooded parts of these countries. Plantations of fir, in which it finds a sheltered retreat during the day, and also thick holly or ivy bushes, are its favourite haunts. It breeds early in the spring, not making any nest of its own, but taking possession of that of a magpie or crow. Its eggs, of which there are generally four or five, are white, and rather larger and rounder than those of the Ring-dove. Mice and moles form the principal part of its food.

## OWL, MOTTLED.

### AMERICAN MOTTLED OWL.

*STRIX ASIO, Lin.*

This species inhabits the Oregon and the Columbia River districts, and is met with abundantly in the British provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, &c. In England a specimen of this bird was shot by Joseph Owen of Kirkstall, in the breeding season of 1852, in Hawksworth Cover, the property of Lord Cardigan, half a mile above Kirkstall Abbey, on the banks of the river Aire, and about four miles west of Leeds. A pair of these Owls having been seen by Mr. Owen, he shot one, and went night after night to the haunts they had both frequented to obtain the other, but

without success. A detailed account, with a figure of the species, appeared in the "Naturalist" for August, 1855. Of its eggs or breeding-place nothing is known.

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## OWL, SCOPS-EARED.

### LITTLE HORNED OWL.

STRIX SCOPS, *Mont.*

This diminutive species is only an occasional visitant in England, and that at very rare intervals. It is common, however, in the warmer parts of Europe during the summer months, but regularly leaves them on the approach of autumn, for regions nearer to the Equator. In France it arrives and departs with the Swallow. Its favourite residence in Italy is in the lower wooded regions. Field and shrew mice, insects and earth-worms, are the food in quest of which it sallies forth at night-fall, uttering a peculiar cry, which resembles the word "kew." Being one of those birds which constructs no nest, it deposits its eggs, of which there are four or five, in the hollow of a tree. Becoming very tame when taken young, it is easily domesticated, and its habits and manners are very interesting.

## OWL, SHORTE-EARED.

### SHORT-HORNED OWL.

*STRIX BRACHYOTOS, Mont.*

This Owl is widely distributed, being met with in Siberia and in several parts of North America. In winter they are dispersed over Scotland and England, generally appearing from the north about the beginning of October, and remaining till April, when they retire northwards. Many however remain in the Orkneys, and other northern parts of Scotland, to breed. In this country they generally remain concealed in long grass or rushy places, upon waste ground or moors; and are often met with in turnip fields. They are seldom or never seen in plantations, and it does not appear to be their habit to perch upon trees. Five or six of them are often observed together. Their principal food with us consists of field-mice, and occasionally small birds, and they are not altogether nocturnal.

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## OWL, SNOWY.

*STRIX NYCTEA, Lin.*

This noble and beautiful Owl was first established as a resident in Great Britain in the year

1812, by Mr. Bullock, who, in a tour which he made to the Orkneys and Shetland Isles, found it breeding in those remote districts. Since that period it has occasionally been met with in the United Kingdom. Some individuals of this species are almost entirely white, while others have large markings. From the observations that have been made on its habits, it appears to be by no means a bird which is active only during the comparative gloom of twilight, for it has been seen pursuing its prey in the daytime. Alpine hares, rabbits, rats, and the different species of grouse, are among the animals that fall victims to its appetite. It rests exposed upon the ground, where it can look round and descry the approach of an enemy. It breeds upon open moors, and lays two or three eggs of a pure white.

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## OWL, TAWNY BROWN.

### IVY OWL.

*STRIX STRIDULA, Mont.*

Next to the White or Barn Owl, this is the most abundant of the British species, and like the former is generally dispersed throughout this kingdom, as well as in many parts of Europe. It is most frequently met with, however, in well-wooded districts, as it takes up its abode in woods and thick



plantations, preferring those which abound in firs and holly or ivy bushes. In such situations it remains concealed till nightfall, as it is very impatient of the glare of day, and sees indeed imperfectly during the continuance of sunlight. It preys upon rats, mice, moles, rabbits, and young leverets, and is sometimes destructive to pigeons, entering the dovecots, and committing great havoc. At night it emits a loud and doleful cry, termed hooting, and occasionally utters a harsh scream. It breeds in the cavities of old trees, or will occupy the deserted nest of a crow, and produces four or five white eggs of a broad oval shape.

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## OWL, TENGMALM'S.

STRIX TENGMALMI, *Temm.*

This is an occasional straggler in England, but not a native. It is abundant in North America, and not uncommon in the north of Europe, where it nests in the hollows of trees, laying four or five white eggs. The nest-boxes set up by the Lapps and other inhabitants of the far north, for the accommodation of the Golden-eyed Duck, which regularly avails itself of these artificial nesting-places, are invariably robbed of the eggs which they contain, by the proprietor of the Tyllyr. This Owl is strictly nocturnal in its habits, and is so

much dazzled by the light of the sun when it accidentally wanders abroad in the day, that it becomes stupid, in which condition it may be easily caught by the hand. Its cry in the night is a melancholy note, repeated at intervals of a minute or two.

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## OYSTER-CATCHER, OR SEA-PIE.

HÆMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS, *Lin.*

The Oyster-catcher occurs on all our coasts, on many parts of which it is abundant. After the breeding season it collects in flocks, which are frequently very numerous. At this period they are met with chiefly on low rocky shores, or at the mouths of rivers. Its peculiar shaped bill is constructed in such a manner as to enable it easily to disengage the limpets from the rocks, and to pluck out from their half-opened shells the oysters, on which, as well as on other kinds of shell-fish, sea-worms, and insects, it feeds. They are often seen frequenting not only rocky headlands, but also the extensive sands on the sea-shore. They occasionally wade in the water, but in general seek their food in exposed parts. They run with great celerity, have a strong and rapid flight, and emit a very loud shrill cry. In April the flocks break up, and the individuals disperse in pairs, some

ascending the rivers, but by far the greatest number breeding on the shores of the sea, in unfrequented places. The nest, which is hollow, with some fragments of plants placed in it, is made generally among the gravel or pebbles, but sometimes also in rocky places. The eggs, of which there are not more than three or four, are of an oval shape, and of a pale greyish yellow hue, marked all over with dots, blotches, and streaks of blackish brown.

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## PARTRIDGE, BARBARY.

*PERDIX PETROSA, Gould.*

It is said by Naturalists to frequent France, Spain, and Germany, while in England only a few rare specimens have been discovered. A bird of this species was found dead a few miles from Melton Mowbray, in Leicestershire, in April, 1842, since which time a few other individuals have been observed in England, where it is generally supposed that a few eggs of this breed had been introduced some years since, with a much larger quantity of those of the more common red-legged birds. The Barbary Partridge, otherwise the Mock Partridge, and Gambia Partridge of Buffon, is found in Africa, as far south as Senegal, and to the north extending its range over Morocco and

Barbary, and from thence eastwards to Algeria, where it is said to be common. In its habits it closely resembles the other red-legged species, selecting seed, grain, and insects as its favourite food. The female chooses barren places and desert mountains, where, among low bushes, she deposits her eggs, to the number of fifteen. The eggs are of a yellow hue, thickly dotted with greenish olive spots.

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## PARTRIDGE, COMMON.

*PERDIX CINEREA, Mont.*

The Partridge is generally distributed and permanently resident in cultivated lands, though it is not peculiar to them. It thrives best in those parts where an abundance of grain prevails. It is fond of rambling into waste or pasture grounds, which are covered with long grass, furze, or broom; but it seldom enters woods, and never perches on trees. Its flight is direct, with rapid flaps of the wings, producing a whirring noise, and it runs with great speed. It feeds on grass, corn, grain, peas, the seeds of various plants, and on insects, &c. &c. During the middle of the day the Partridges retire to bushes, or bask in the sun on dry banks where they may be observed busily engaged in dusting, and afterwards in pruning their feathers. They roost upon the ground, gene-

rally in an open place. In winter the Partridges remain together in coveys, but separate and pair early in spring. The eggs are deposited on the ground in a shallow hole, scratched for the purpose, and under cover of a tuft of grass, furze, bush, or other brushwood. They vary in number, from twelve to twenty, and are of a pale greenish or yellowish brown.

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## PARTRIDGE, RED-LEGGED.

### FRENCH OR GUERNSEY PARTRIDGE.

*PERDIX RUFA, Mont.*

This bird is found not only in various parts of Asia and Africa, but also in Europe, as in Germany, France, and Italy, as well as in the Islands of Madeira, Guernsey, and Jersey. It has been introduced too into the southern and eastern parts of England, where it is not uncommon. It prefers woody and heathy wastes to cultivated land. It affords less sport than the common species of Partridge, as it runs before the dogs, the individuals composing a covey dispersing and rising one after another. Its mode of nesting is similar to that of the other species. The female lays ten to fifteen eggs of a yellowish colour, variegated with greenish brown spots, very close to each other.

## PASTOR, ROSE-COLOURED.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING. ROSE-COLOURED OUZEL.

PASTOR ROSEUS, *Temm.*

This beautiful bird is a native of the warmer parts of Asia and Africa, where it is common. It migrates at regular periodical intervals into the south of Europe, visiting in this way Italy, Spain, and the southern provinces of France, and sometimes straggling into this country, where it has been repeatedly obtained, as also in a few instances in Scotland. It lives and feeds with the Starling, and perching on the backs of cattle, extracts the larvæ of œstri, a species of parasitical insect which breeds upon them. In the search after these it displays great assiduity, and is on that account not only highly esteemed, but carefully protected by the inhabitants of the countries it frequents, who derive great benefit from its destruction of numbers of injurious larvæ. Its nest is made in the holes of trees, and in old walls; and the female lays five or six light blue eggs.

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 PETREL, BULWER'S.
THALASSIDROMA, *Gould.*

The following is the account given by Mr. Gould, in his Birds of Europe, of this rare species

of Petrel. "On the authority of Colonel Dalton, of Hemingford, near Ripon, we are enabled to add this rare species to the Fauna of Britain, from a fine specimen which was found on the banks of the Ure, near Tanfield, in Yorkshire, on the 8th May, 1837, and which could not have been long dead, as it admitted of being mounted as a good cabinet specimen, and is now in the possession of Colonel Dalton. As it is stated to be an inhabitant of Madeira and the adjacent islands, we may infer that the seas bounding the western shores of Africa constitute its true habitat."

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## PETREL, CAPPED.

### WHITE-HEADED PETREL.

#### PROCELLARIA HÆSITATA, *Kuhl.*

But very few examples of this species of Petrel are to be met with in collections. One was obtained in the Indian Ocean, another in the Australian Seas, and a third in the South Seas. One is now in the British Museum, which was brought from Hayti; and another which was taken in the West Indies. Only one specimen has been obtained in England, captured near Swaffham, in Norfolk, in the spring of 1850, a detailed account of which appeared in the "Zoologist," in 1852, (page 3661,) with two illustrations. Of its eggs, and manner of nesting, nothing appears to be known.

## PETREL, FORK-TAILED.

### LEACH PETREL.

*THALASSIDROMA LEACHII, Temm.*

This species, which resembles the Stormy Petrel, was discovered in 1818, in the island of St. Kilda. It has since been repeatedly met with on various parts of the coast, and has several times been found dead, or in an exhausted state, even far inland, during or after stormy weather in winter. It is said to be plentiful on the banks of Newfoundland, and in other parts of North America. It has been taken on the coasts of Holland, Belgium, and France. It breeds in sandy burrows or holes of rocks, laying one white egg of a roundish oval form, large for the size of the bird. It feeds on small fish, crustacea and mollusca, &c.

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## PETREL.

### FULMER, OR MALLEMOKE.

*PROCELLARIA GLACIALIS, Lin.*

The Fulmer Petrel inhabits in summer the Arctic regions of both Continents, and in winter advances southward. It is of rare occurrence on our coasts, except on the island of St. Kilda, where numbers breed. The egg, which is deposited in a



slight nest on the rocks, is quite white, and of large size, two inches and a half in length, two inches in breadth. It is remarkable that, whatever be the nature of the food of the Fulmer, and other birds of the Petrel species, a quantity of pure oily matter is usually found in the gullet, supposed by many to be the product of some secretion or conversion. Voyagers to the northern seas, however, state that this species greedily devours the blubber of dead whales, and the common opinion is that all the Fulmers and Petrels obtain oily and fatty matters floating on the sea. When seized, they eject by the mouth, and also it is said squirt through the nostrils, this oil, which the people of St. Kilda collect for economical purposes. When first ejected it is of a clear amber colour, but becomes of a deeper tint when kept.

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## PETREL, STORM.

### MOTHER CARY'S CHICKEN.

*THALASSIDROMA PELAGICA, Penn.*

This species, the smallest of the European web-footed birds, is a native of the British islands, breeding in Cornwall, Shetland, the Orkneys, and the Hebrides. It constructs its nest in holes in the rocks, or under stones on the sea beach. The eggs, which are broad, are of a pure white, with-

out gloss, and generally with a belt of minute dark red spots at the large end. The Storm Petrel disappears from all its breeding places after the young are reared, and seems to reside on the open sea during winter. It has a buoyant and gliding flight, floats lightly on the water, and swims with ease, letting down its feet occasionally when skimming over the waves. It has even been imagined, like others of this genus, to walk on the sea, whence its name Petrel or Little Peter.

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### PETREL, WILSON'S.

*THALASSIDROMA WILSONI, Temm.*

This species, named by the Prince of Canino in honour of the celebrated Scoto-American Ornithologist, is said to breed on various parts of the coasts of North America, and to occur plentifully on the Atlantic ocean. It is admitted in the British list as an occasional visitant. It breeds on some small islands, situated off the southern extremity of Nova Scotia, which are formed of sand and light earth, scantily covered with grass, where it forms burrows to the depth of about two feet, in the bottom of which, in a nest, made of a few bits of dried grass, scarcely deserving the name, it lays a single white egg. The egg, measuring an inch and a half in length, is almost equally round at both ends.

## PHALAROPE.

## GREY-RED PHALAROPE, OR COOTFOOT.

*PHALAROPUS PLATYRHINCHUS, Gould.*

This species enters in summer into the Arctic regions of both continents, where it breeds, assuming at this season the light red plumage whence it derives the name of Red Phalarope. The eggs, four in number, are of a green hue, clouded and spotted with amber brown. Its flight is rapid; it runs with ease, and swims with great speed. It often searches the shores of seas, lakes, and rivers, in the manner of a Sandpiper, but having the toes furnished with a broad scolloped membrane, similar to that of the Coot, it is enabled to proceed to sea, and is frequently seen at a great distance from land, walking on masses of floating seaweed, or swimming on the open ocean.

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## PHALAROPE, RED-NECKED.

*PHALAROPUS HYPERBOREUS, Penn.*

This species differs from the last chiefly in having the bill more slender, depressed and tapering to a point, instead of becoming enlarged towards the end. There is little difference, however, in the habits of the two birds. It is found in

the northern parts of both continents, after passing the summer in which, it migrates southwards. It also occurs in England, but does not appear to remain with us all the winter, the few that have been seen towards that season having been observed only in the course of their migrations. The Red-necked Phalarope breeds in the Orkney and Shetland Islands, where it inhabits the margin of the lakes, near the edge of which it forms its nest in the grass, depositing in it four eggs of a light olive or oil-green colour, spotted with brownish black. It swims with great ease, but is incapable of diving. It has also been seen out at sea among floating seaweed. It feeds on insects, crustacea, and worms.

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## PHEASANT, RING-NECK.

### BOHEMIAN PHEASANT.

*PHASIANUS COLCHICUS, Lin.*

The Pheasant is now found numerously distributed throughout a great part of Europe. In its native haunts in Asia it is very abundant; and, although not a native of this country, is now generally dispersed in Great Britain and Ireland. Naturalized as it is, in some manner, in this country, it could not subsist with us were it left to its own resources, and is therefore nourished in preserves. The males generally keep by themselves in winter,

and in spring separate, each selecting a particular spot, where he struts and invites the female by crowing and clapping his wings. The female makes a very inartificial nest upon the ground, in long grass or thick underwood, and not unfrequently in fields of clover. She lays from ten to fifteen eggs, of a pale greenish brown, sometimes greyish white, and occasionally yellowish grey. In some instances the Pheasant, and more rarely the black Grouse, has been crossed with the domestic fowl, and sometimes the female assumes the plumage of the male.

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## PIGEON, PASSENGER.

*COLUMBA MIGRATORIA, Lin.*

This remarkable bird inhabits a wide and extensive region of North America, spreading over the whole of Canada, extending to the Gulf of Mexico southwards, and westward to the Rocky Mountains, which appear to be the limit of its range in that direction. In almost every part of the United States this species occasionally visits and breeds. One or two specimens have been captured in Britain; and it has been found in Norway and Russia. The most remarkable characteristic of these birds is their habit of associating together, both in their migrations and during the period of incubation, in such prodigious numbers as

almost to surpass belief—a phenomenon which has no parallel among any other feathered tribes on the face of the earth, that Naturalists are acquainted with. The chief food of the Passenger Pigeon is beech mast, with numerous other grains and fruits, among which is to be counted rice, a favourite article with them. They have two or three broods in the year, and their breeding places are generally in beech woods. Their nest, which is very slight, is composed of a few twigs rudely woven into a platform, and so loosely constructed that the eggs and young can be seen from below. The eggs, according to Audubon, are not more than two in number, and of a pure white.

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## PIPIT, MEADOW PIPIT.

LARK, OR TITLARK.

ANTHUS PRATENSIS, *Flem.*

This species is so generally distributed as to be very common in many countries, occurring in the interior as well as on the coast, and frequenting wet meadows, moors, commons, and pasture lands. In winter it becomes occasionally gregarious, and betakes itself to marshy places open to the seashore. Like the Wagtail, it runs with celerity, and feeds upon flies, worms, and other insects. It

usually makes its nest on a grassy bank, under the shelter of a tuft of herbage, forming it of dry grass, interwoven with the seed stalks of plants, and lined with finer grasses, or with hair. The eggs, of which there are five or six, vary in colour, but the prevailing tint is a pale brown, thickly covered with brownish purple red spots and specks.

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### PIPIT, RICHARD'S.

ANTHUS RICARDI, *Bew.*

This Pipit, which is about the size of the Rock Pipit, from which it is distinguished by the different colours of its plumage, as well as by its more elongated leg and hind claws, has occurred in England only in a few instances. It was first made known as a British bird by Mr. Vigors, who described and figured a young individual caught near London, in October, 1812. The habits of this species, as far as the peculiarities of so rare a bird can be known, are said to be similar to those of the other Pipits. It is not observed to perch on trees, or on any elevated spot, but is always on the ground, where it runs with facility, uttering a note which is said to be very loud. The food in which it delights consists of various insects. The eggs are described to be of a reddish white colour, speckled with darker red and light brown.

## PIPIT, ROCK.

### DUSKY OR SHORE PIPIT.

ANTHUS PETROSUS, *Flem.*

This species appears either to have remained long unnoticed, or to have been confounded with others by the earlier ornithologists, Montagu apparently having been the first observer of its distinctive characteristics. The peculiar localities frequented by it contributed doubtless to its remaining so long unobserved, for its haunts are strictly confined to rocky and abrupt shores. In these situations it is not rare in Europe, nor on the shores of England, Scotland, or Wales. It is constantly resident with us, and may be found at all seasons on our coasts. In its habits it resembles the common Pipit. It breeds early, building in the clefts and on ledges of rocks. It lays four or five eggs of a pale yellowish grey, with reddish brown spots. It feeds on the smaller marine insects and worms.

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## PIPIT, TREE.

### LESSER FIELD LARK.

ANTHUS ARBOREUS, *Bechst.*

Unlike the last species, which is permanently resident in England, this is a summer visitant,



arriving in the end of April, and departing in September. It has a great resemblance to the Meadow Pipit, from which, however, it is easily distinguished by its short hooked hind claw. It inhabits the borders of woods in the arable districts, and is never found upon the moors or extensive downs, where the Meadow Pipit is most abundant. It is generally, but thinly, dispersed in England, and occurs even more sparingly in the south of Scotland. Its song, which it pours forth from the top of a tree, or on the wing, as it slowly descends to the spot from which it had previously risen, is superior to that of the Meadow Pipit. It nestles on the ground, laying four or five eggs, which, though varying much in size and colour, are usually purplish or greyish white, with spots or blotches of dark red or purplish brown.

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## PLOVER, GOLDEN.

### WHISTLING PLOVER.

*CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS, Lin.*

The Golden Plover is generally distributed over Britain in the winter season. So long as the weather remains mild, it frequents the open plains and ploughed fields, but betakes itself to the sea-shore and its vicinity on the approach of frost. Towards the end of spring the Golden Plovers

pair and resort to the heaths, where they breed. At this season they are abundant in most of the hilly parts of Scotland, and in the Hebrides. They select for their nest a slight hollow in a dry place, among the heath or moss, irregularly strewed with fragments of withered plants. The eggs, four in number, are very large, of a pale greenish yellow or cream colour, irregularly spotted and patched with dark brown. When the young are able to fly, the Plovers collect into flocks, but remain in the heaths and hill pastures until the commencement of winter. During continued frosts they search for their food on the sands and rocky shores of the sea at low water. Great numbers are killed, their flesh affording delicate eating, not much inferior to that of the Woodcock.

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## PLOVER, GREY.

*VANELLUS MELANOGASTER, Temm.*

The Grey Plover, which is plentiful in some parts of North America, and pretty generally distributed over the temperate countries of the continent of Europe, is more abundant in France than in Germany, and is rare in Switzerland. It seems to be with us merely an annual visitant, appearing in small flocks, chiefly in autumn and spring. It is found along the coasts, where it fre-

quents the muddy and sandy beaches, which it searches for worms, insects, and small marine animals. It breeds in the northern counties, placing a few blades of grass in a slight hollow, in which it lays four light greenish yellow eggs, blotched and dotted with brown and pale purple.

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### PLOVER, KENTISH.

CHARADRIUS CANTIANUS, *Bew.*

The Kentish Plover was so named by Latham, who first described it from specimens shot near Sandwich, in Kent. It is said to be abundant in the northern parts of Germany, in France, on the shores of Holland, and along the coasts of the Mediterranean. It has been found during spring and summer along the sandy coasts of several of the southern and eastern counties of England, but not farther north than Norfolk. It is very extensively distributed on the Continent, and is found in India and its islands. Its habits are similar to those of the Ringed Plover. The eggs, four in number, are of a yellowish stone colour, spotted and streaked with black.

## PLOVER, LAPWING.

### PEE WIT, OR GREEN PLOVER.

VANELLUS CRISTATUS, *Flem.*

The Lapwing, a bird generally and familiarly known, frequents in summer wet heaths, moors, marshy pastures, and meadows. It forms its nest in April, depositing in it four eggs of a pale brownish yellow, greenish grey, or olivaceous colour, blotched, spotted, and dotted with brownish black. These, being considered delicate food, are collected in vast numbers and exposed for sale in the London markets during the breeding season. The old birds shew great anxiety and considerable boldness in defence of their young, flying up to meet an intruder. After the breeding season they leave the marshy parts and betake themselves to the fields and pastures. Although they never at any season fairly take up their residence at the coast, they often in winter frequent the sands exposed by the ebb.

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## PLOVER, LITTLE-RINGED.

CHARADRIUS MINOR, *Temm.*

This species is not uncommon on the Continent, and appears to be as extensively distributed as the

rest of the genus. Several individuals have been killed within the last few years on the Sussex coast, where it appears to be an annual visitant, although it is sparingly met with. It is said to be less frequently seen on the sea-coast than on the banks of rivers, a circumstance by which, as well as by the smallness of its size, it is distinguished from the Ringed Plover. In the breeding season it lays on the ground four eggs, which are somewhat more than an inch long, and of a pale greyish yellow, dotted with blackish brown and bluish grey spots.

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## PLOVER, NORFOLK GREAT PLOVER.

### THICK-KNEE STONE CURLEW.

*ŒDICNEMUS CREPITANS, Temm.*

This bird is a regular summer visitant to some of the eastern counties of England, especially Norfolk, Suffolk, Sussex, and Yorkshire, arriving in the beginning of May, and departing in September. It frequents open tracts, feeds on insects, worms, and reptiles, runs with great rapidity, is partially nocturnal, has a rapid flight, and emits a loud shrill cry. As this species makes no nest, the female lays two or three eggs on the bare ground, sheltered by a stone, or in a small hole formed in the sand. The eggs are of a dirty white hue, marked with spots of a deep reddish colour, mixed

with slight streaks. The young, which are at first covered with down, leave the nest as soon as they are hatched, the mother leading them to some stony tract.

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## PLOVER, RINGED.

### RING DOTTEREL.

*CHARADRIUS HIATICULA, Lin.*

The Ring Plover is generally dispersed along the shores of this country, in which it is permanently resident. It collects in autumn into large flocks, which frequent the sands of bays and estuaries, often mingling with Sandpipers. Its food consists of insects, worms, and small crustaceous animals. It runs with great celerity, has a rapid flight, and emits a mellow whistling cry. Towards the beginning of April the flocks break up into small parties, when the individuals pair. The nest is a hollow formed in the sand, generally not far from high-water mark, but sometimes in the sandy pastures, and even far inland. The eggs, of which there are invariably four, are large and of a greyish yellow colour, slightly covered with small spots of brownish black.

## PRATINCOLE, AUSTRIAN.

## COLLARED PRATINCOLE.

GLAREOLA TORQUATA, *Flem.*

A very few individuals of this species have been taken in this country. It inhabits the borders of rivers, lakes, and inland seas, particularly such as form extensive marshes covered with reeds and other aquatic herbage. Its flight is singularly rapid, even surpassing that of the Swallow tribe. Its food consists of flies, beetles, aquatic insects, &c.; and it captures its prey not only upon the wing, but upon the ground, being capable of running with great celerity. The Pratincole builds amongst the rushes and other thick herbage, and lays from four to six eggs of a pale buffy stone colour, marked with bluish grey and dull black blotches. The egg, by its colour and markings, much resembles that of the Ring Plover.

## PUFFIN, SEA PARROT.

FRATERCULA ARCTICA, *Flem.*

In the end of spring the individuals of this species make their appearance about the islands and headlands on which they breed, on various

parts of the coast of England and Scotland, as the Fern Islands, Puffin Island, in the Frith of Forth, St. Kilda, &c. They dig holes in the earth, from two to three feet in length, in which a single white egg, of an oval form and about two inches and a half long, by an inch and a half in breadth, is deposited. Puffins are most observed on our coasts in winter, for although they breed much further north than Britain, they proceed in autumn more towards the equator.

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## QUAIL, ANDALUSIAN.

### ANDALUSIAN HEMIPODE.

#### HEMIPODIUS TACHYDROMUS, *Temm.*

Mr. Thomas Goatley states in the "Annals of Natural History," Vol. 14, that in November, 1844, he received a Quail having no back toe, and which he found described in Latham's general history as the Gibraltar Quail. It was shot by the gamekeeper on the Cornwall estate in Oxfordshire, about three miles from Chipping Norton, and having been preserved was figured and described by Farrell. Mr. Goatley also states that another was afterwards killed near the same spot by the same person, but was so mutilated as to be unfit for preservation. The Andalusian Quail inhabits sandy plains in Africa, &c. but its habits, in reference to nesting, &c. are imperfectly known.



## QUAIL, COMMON.

PERDIX COTURNIX, *Mont.*

This Quail is extensively distributed over Asia, Africa, and Europe, and in some regions is stationary, in others migratory. It arrives in England about the middle of May, and departs in September; but instances have occurred of its remaining in winter both in England and Ireland. It is very seldom met with in Scotland, and is not common anywhere. Its food consists of seed, herbage, and occasionally insects. It selects for its nest a slight hollow, and the eggs, of which there are from ten to sixteen, are of a reddish yellow, yellowish white, or greenish grey hue, marked all over with dark brown spots and blotches. The haunts of the Quail are chiefly cultivated fields and pastures.

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## QUAIL, VIRGINIAN.

COLIN.

ORTYX VIRGINIANA. *Jenyns.*

This species, which is abundant in North America from Mexico to Massachusetts, has been introduced into England and naturalized in some of the southern counties. It generally keeps itself to

the open ground, preferring those spots where grain is plentiful. Sometimes, however, it shelters itself among the trees or brushwood, but even then seems to pass but little of its time in such retreats. During the winter it approaches human habitations in search of food, and boldly fights with the poultry for the grain thrown to them. This species makes a rude nest under the shelter of corn or grass tufts, and lays from fifteen to twenty-four pure white eggs.

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## R A I L, L A N D.

### CORN-CRAKE.

GALLINULA CREX, *Penn.*

This species, which although seldom seen is often heard, arrives in England in the beginning of summer, and the greater part of them depart early in September. Some of the young, however, are killed at a much later period. It is generally distributed, occurring in considerable numbers in the most northern parts of Scotland and its islands, as well as in England and Ireland. Its well known cry of *crek, crek*, repeated often for a long time continuously, or at intervals, and heard as if at varying distances, is emitted while the bird is standing in a half-crouching attitude, with the

neck moderately extended. The ordinary haunts of the Land Rail, which prefers dry or moderately moist to wet ground, are fields of corn and grass. Its food consists of insects, worms, slugs, and sometimes seeds. Its nest is composed of a few straws laid in a straight hollow, among corn, grass, or tall weeds. The eggs, generally eight or ten, are of a light cream colour, patched and dotted with brownish red and light purple spots. The young, which are covered with down of a blackish colour, run with surprising speed.

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## R A I L, W A T E R.

*RALLUS AQUATICUS, Lin.*

The Water Rail is not very common in Great Britain, but is numerous in the marshes of the northern countries of Europe, whence partially, and at irregular periods, it migrates southward, even into Africa, during the severity of the season. It is a shy and solitary bird, generally distributed and permanently resident in Britain. Its constant abode is in low wet places much overgrown with sedges, reeds, and other coarse herbage, among which it finds shelter, and feeds in security. It runs occasionally, flirting up its tail with the same swiftness as the Land Rail, through the meadows and corn-fields, and shows as great an

aversion to take flight as that bird. Its food consists of worms, slugs, &c. The nest, which is bulky, contains from six to twelve eggs, of an oval shape, cream-coloured, and marked with red and pale grey spots.

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## RAVEN, OR CORBY.

*CORVUS CORAX, Lin.*

The Raven is more abundant in the northern and western parts of Scotland than in the southern counties, or in England, in many parts of which it has been extirpated. It is found in all climates, braving the snow of Greenland with as much ease as it bears the sultry heat of the torrid zone. Its favourite places of habitation are extensive woods or rocky and mountainous districts. It feeds on carcases of all kinds, stranded fish, insects, worms, small quadrupeds, young birds, grain, and other substances. The Raven's nest, which is built upon the loftiest trees, or on steep and inaccessible rocks, is composed of sticks, and is lined with wool, hair, &c. The eggs, which are of an oil-green colour, blotched with darker stains, are generally five or six in number, rather larger than those of the Carrion Crow. It breeds very early, commencing about the middle of February.

## RAZORBILL.

MURRE, OR MARROT.

ALCA TORDA, *Lin.*

In autumn great numbers of Razorbills appear on the bays and estuaries of all parts of Scotland and England. They advance southward as the cold increases, and almost entirely desert the northern parts, unless when shoals of young fish are on the coast. Towards the end of spring they proceed in parties to their breeding places, which are abrupt headlands or rocks on unfrequented islands, on which they settle along with the Guillemots and Kittiwakes. Their single egg is very large, of an oblong form, about three inches in length, and of a greenish white hue, blotched and clouded with dark brown or black. The Razorbills feed on small fishes and crustaceæ, which they procure by diving.

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REDPOLE, LESSER.FRINGILLA LINARIA, *Lin.*

This species, which resembles the Siskin in its habits, forms large flocks in winter and betakes itself to the birch and alder woods to procure the seeds in which it delights. In search of these it

hangs in all kinds of attitudes, and feeds not only on them, but also on the seeds of other plants. It is known in the southern parts of Britain only as a winter visitant, and at that period is gregarious, being frequently taken in company with the Linnet. In the northern counties of England, and in Scotland and its isles, it is a resident throughout the year. It retires during the summer to the under-wood that covers the bases of many of our mountains and hills, and often fringes the banks of the precipitous streams which descend in their rocky channels to the plains. In these sequestered situations it breeds; a bush or low tree being selected for its nest, which is formed of grass, moss, and downy filaments, and lined with seed down. The eggs, generally four or five, are of a pale bluish green, spotted with brown.

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## REDPOLE.

MEALY, OR STONE REDPOLE.

*FRINGILLA BOREALIS, Temm.*

The geographical range of this species is very considerable. Its visits to our shores in any considerable numbers happen at irregular periods, sometimes with intervals of some years, during which it is rarely found in England. The period of its appearance here is in the autumn, and it departs again in the spring. In summer it in-

habits Scandinavia, Greenland, Lapland, &c., where it breeds. The eggs are of a pale bluish green, spotted with orange brown, and are not more than four or five in number. Its habits are similar to those of the common Redpole.

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## REDSHANK, COMMON.

TOTANUS CALIDRIS, *Flem.*

The Redshanks are generally dispersed along the shores in winter, chiefly frequenting muddy and sandy places, and in summer resorting to the inland marshes and pools. It often wades into the water in quest of food, for which it also probes the sand and mud. It is a suspicious and vigilant bird, remarkably active and vociferous. It has a rapid wavering flight, and when standing its body is kept continually vibrating. Its nest, which is very slight in structure, may generally be found in a hollow, and it lays four eggs of a pale greenish grey hue, marked and blotched with reddish brown and blackish brown spots.

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## REDSHANK, SPOTTED.

DUSKY REDSHANK.

TOTANUS FUSCUS, *Flem.*

This species is not of rare occurrence in England during the winter season ; but though it has

been occasionally taken within our bounds, few, if any, have been captured in the singular sooty black plumage which it assumes in summer. No specimen of it has yet been seen in Scotland, but it is found in Holland, France, &c., while on its passage in spring and autumn. It inhabits the sea-shore, the borders of rivers, lakes, &c., and feeds on worms, insects, &c. The first authenticated specimens of the eggs of the Spotted Redshank were obtained in the summer of 1854 by Mr. Wolley.

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## REDSTART, BLACK.

*SYLVIA TITHYS, Temm.*

This species, which is rare in Sweden, and in the northern parts of the European Continent generally, is not an uncommon visitor to the eastern and western coasts of England. It is common in summer in Germany, France, and Switzerland. The habits of this bird are somewhat similar to those of the common Redstart, but it prefers stony places and is rarely seen on the plains. Its food consists of worms, insects in their various stages, small fruits and berries. Its nest, which is made in the clefts of rocks, holes in walls, &c., is formed of grass and lined with hair. It produces five or six white eggs, smooth, shining, and polished in appearance.



## REDSTART, COMMON.

SYLVIA PHENICURUS, *Temm.*

The Redstart arrives in this country from the middle to the end of April, and departs in October. Generally assuming a station on a stone or twig, and jerking out its tail at intervals, it sallies forth in pursuit of insects in the manner of the Flycatchers. It is very partial to walls, and frequently places its nest in a hole or chink of one, though sometimes it selects the hollow of a tree for that purpose. The nest is composed of fibrous roots and moss, and is plentifully lined with hair. The eggs, from six to seven in number, are of a light greenish blue colour, scarcely distinguishable from those of the Hedge Sparrow, although somewhat smaller. The Redstart is extensively distributed in Britain and Ireland.

## REDWING.

TURDUS ILIACUS, *Lin.*

This species is a periodical visitant to England, generally arriving upon our north-eastern coasts towards the end of October. During its residence here it is gregarious, and haunts the meadows and pastures as long as open weather continues. On

the approach of frost it repairs to woods and hedges, where the berries of the hawthorn, holly, and some other trees, afford it the necessary means of subsistence. Upon the approach of spring it returns to the northern provinces of Europe, where it breeds and passes the summer. It is abundant in Sweden, Norway, Lapland, and Russia, in which countries it inhabits the woods and thickets adjoining low or marshy tracts. It builds its nest in maples, beech, and other trees, and lays from four to six eggs, bluish green in colour, and marked with blackish brown spots.

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## REGULUS, DALMATIAN.

REGULUS MODESTUS, *Temm.*

The first notice of the death or capture in this country of any individual of this species, appeared in the "Annals of Natural History," in which an account was given of one shot by Mr. Hancock of Newcastle-on-Tyne, in September, 1833. In its habits this specimen was observed to have a very great resemblance to the Golden-crested Wren. It was constantly in motion, flirting about from place to place in search of such insects among the herbage as the bleak coasts of Northumberland afforded. Such a situation, indeed, could not be at all suited to the habits of this species; and there

can be but little doubt that it had arrived in that country previous to or immediately after its autumnal migration. A single specimen of this bird, shot in Dalmatia, in 1829, was figured by Gould in his "Birds of Europe;" one of a species in his opinion so extremely rare, that he considers the individual which he described as unique in the continental collections.

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## REGULUS, FIRE-CRESTED.

REGULUS IGNICAPILLUS, *Temm.*

This species is easily distinguished by the two black bands on each side of the head, and by another across the forehead, but is otherwise very similar to the common Gold-crest. It has been met with several times in the eastern parts of England, the first specimen having been obtained at Swaffham Bubeck, near Cambridge, in the autumn of 1832. It is said to be dispersed over the Continent, and to be migratory. In France the individuals of this species are usually seen together in pairs, and like the common Gold-crest, they associate with Titmice, but seem restless and shy. They appear to prefer low brushwood and young plantations of fir to the lofty trees. In the nest, which is suspended under a branch of fir, from five to nine eggs, of a pale

flesh colour, marked with small red spots at the larger end, have been found. The food of the Fire-crested *Regulus* is said to be similar to that of the other species.

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## REGULUS, GOLDEN-CRESTED:

### GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN.

*REGULUS CRISTATUS, Temm.*

The Golden-crested Wren is found throughout Europe, and as far north as the Arctic Circle. It is generally abundant in woods, especially those of pine or fir, in all parts of Britain, but particularly in Scotland, where it remains all the year. It is a resident even in Orkney and Shetland, where woods, forests, or large groups of trees are unknown. In winter it moves about in troops of ten, associating with Titmice and other small birds. Its song is short and feeble, but its flight is rapid, and all its motions lively. It clings to the twigs in all postures, and occasionally betakes itself to low bushes, as broom and furze, and even heath. The nest, which is large and of a globular form, is made of moss and lichen, interwoven with wool or hairs, and lined with feathers, and is usually suspended from the under part of a thickly-clothed fir-branch. The eggs, varying in number from five to nine, are of a brownish or reddish white, darker at the larger end.

## ROBIN, OR REDBREAST.

SYLVIA RUBECULA. *Temm.*

This well-known and favourite warbler is common throughout Great Britain, its range extending as far north as the Orkney islands. As spring advances, the male bird retires to the woods, and having attracted a mate by its rich and mellow song, they soon select a suitable spot for their nest, which is generally placed on a mossy bank, some spot well concealed by the roots of trees, or such clefts of the rock as are overgrown with ivy and woodbine. The nest is formed of moss, dead leaves, and the stalks of plants, with a lining of hair. The eggs, from five to seven in number, are of a pale yellowish grey hue, with numerous reddish brown spots. As winter approaches the greater part of the Redbreasts leave the woods and seek for shelter, and an easier supply of food, near the habitations of man, where they soon acquire that degree of familiarity which has obtained for them the particular protection of all who admire the trust and confidence which they display.

## ROLLER.

*CORACIAS GARRULA, Lin.*

The Roller is said to occur in various parts of Asia, having been taken at Aleppo, and in North Africa, where it occurs from Morocco to Egypt. It extends as far northward as Denmark and Sweden, is rather rare in France, and is said never to have been found in Holland. Although very rare in Britain, it has been several times obtained in England, as well as in Scotland and its islands, one having been killed in Orkney, and another in Shetland. Being naturally a wild, solitary bird, deep forests of oak and birch appear to be its favourite haunts. It generally makes its nest in the hollows of trees, but where these are scarce, on the ground, or in the sandy banks of rivers. It lays from four to seven lustrous white eggs, similar in shape to those of the Bee-eaters. The food in which it chiefly delights consists, besides berries, of crickets, cockchafers, grasshoppers, millipedes, and other insects. There seems reason to believe that in former days, when England, less cultivated, was covered more extensively with pathless woods, the Roller was frequently seen in the ancient forests. It probably built its nest then in the hollows of trees, as it does in the German forests at the present day.

## ROOK.

CORVUS FRUGILEGUS, *Lin.*

The Rook is generally rather larger than the Carrion Crow, from which it greatly differs in its habits. In the adult state it is easily distinguished by the naked and scurfy white skin at the base of the bill, and on the chin, produced by the abrasion of the bristly feathers which in the young bird cover this part and the nostrils. It is generally distributed in Great Britain and Ireland, being common in all the cultivated and partially wooded districts of the country. Unlike the Carrion Crow it is gregarious, often collecting in vast flocks, which breed together in groups of tall trees, termed rookeries. The nest is large, and is composed of sticks and lined with fibrous roots, straw, wool, &c. The eggs, not exceeding four or five in number, are of a bluish green colour, blotched with darker stains. The food of this species consists of larvæ, with worms and insects, though they occasionally subsist on grain, potatoes, and other substances, and in very dry or snowy weather, frequent the sea-shore to feed on crustaceæ, dead fish, &c.

## RUFF.

(FEMALE CALLED REEVE.)

MACHETES PUGNAX, *Selby*.

The Ruff, the female of which is smaller than the male, formerly bred in great numbers in the fenny districts along the eastern coast of England, where they were caught and fattened for the table with farinaceous substances, which they soon relished; but owing to the draining of the marshes and the increase of population, they are now of rare occurrence in those parts, many of them sojourning with us merely for a short time during spring and autumn. On the east coast of Scotland they make their appearance as early as the middle of September, and depart in a fortnight, so that only young birds and females are seen there. The species is extensively distributed on the Continent, where it breeds in the marshes. The female, which forms a slight nest on the ground, and lays greenish grey eggs, spotted with reddish and blackish brown marks, rears her young without the aid of the male.



## SANDERLING.

CALIDRIS ARENARIA, *Flem.*

The Sanderlings appear on our northern coasts in the beginning of September, and gradually increase in numbers, collecting in large bands, which frequent the sandy shores and muddy estuaries, and often mingling with Dunlins. In winter they are dispersed on all parts of our coast; but in the end of spring they betake themselves to the Arctic countries, where they breed, forming a rude nest, and laying four dusky-coloured eggs, spotted with black. Although individuals may be seen on various parts of our coasts in summer, it does not appear that they ever breed in this country.

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## SANDPIPER, BARTRAM'S.

TOTANUS BARTRAMII, *Gould.*

We have no record of the capture of more than two specimens of this species in England, viz. one shot in December, 1854, in a ploughed field between Cambridge and Newmarket, and another killed a short time afterwards in Warwickshire, and now in the collection of Lord Willoughby de Broke at Compton Verney, near Stratford-on-Avon. One instance is recorded of the capture of one of

this species of Sandpiper in Australia. It is evidently a great wanderer, for its true habitat is in the northern portions of America, Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Unlike most of their tribe these birds appear to prefer running about among the grass, feeding on beetles, and other winged insects, seeds, &c., but are never met with on the sea-shore. Their nest is a hollow scooped out in the earth and loosely lined with grass. The eggs are of a dull greyish yellow ground colour, with numerous spots of light purple and reddish brown.

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## SANDPIPER, BROADBILLED.

### FLATBILLED SANDPIPER.

#### TRINGA PLATYRHYNCHUS, *Temm.*

This bird is rather inferior in size to the Dunlin, from which it may always be distinguished by the peculiar flatness and breadth of the bill, as well as by considerable difference in its plumage. It is probably from its similarity to one or two closely allied species that it often passes unnoticed. A few specimens have been obtained in England, and it is found in Italy, Germany, France, Scandinavia, and India, though rarely in the last named country. During the breeding season it is not uncommon in Norway and Lapland. It is similar in its habits to the other species of the genus, feeding on the

grassy borders of the smaller pools and lakes in morasses. The nest, like that of the Snipe, is built in a thick tuft of grass, and contains four or five eggs, generally mottled with chocolate colour over the whole surface.

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### SANDPIPER, BUFF-BREASTED.

*TRINGA RUFESCENS, Selby.*

This species is said not to be uncommon on the eastern coast of North America. It was first discovered by Veillot in the district then known as the Territory of Louisiana. It is probable that after coursing along the shores of the Mississippi, and thus penetrating inland, it proceeded to its northern destination, in the vicinity of the sea-coast to breed. It has been obtained in a few instances in England. This species is often here associated with the Pectoral Sandpiper, which it resembles very much in size and bill, though perfectly distinct from it in plumage. Indeed it is readily distinguished from all other birds of this genus by the peculiar markings of the under surface of the wings. The food of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper consists of land and marine insects, principally grasshoppers.

## SANDPIPER, COMMON.

## SUMMER SNIPE.

TOTANUS HYPOLEUCOS, *Temm.*

This elegant little bird, which is of common occurrence in various countries, arrives in England about the middle of April, and in Scotland about the end of that month, and remains until its departure in September. It frequents the sandy or gravelly shores of lakes, rivers, and brooks, &c., where it procures its food, and breeds. At breeding time it makes its nest in a slight hollow in the sand, or among pebbles. The eggs, of which there are always four, are enormously large, of a reddish white or cream colour, glossy and covered with small spots of a dark purplish brown and greyish purple.

## SANDPIPER, CURLEW.

## PIGMY CURLEW.

TRINGA SUBARQUATA, *Temm.*

This species is very extensively distributed, being found in India, the Cape of Good Hope, in various parts of Europe, and in North America. Though not extremely uncommon on our coasts during

winter, it is probably often confounded with the Dunlin, from which in its summer plumage it is easily distinguished, the breast being red in the one, and black in the other. At all seasons, however, it may be known by its white upper tail-coverts. It arrives in the beginning of September, and departs at the end of April for more northern countries, where it breeds. The eggs are yellowish white, spotted with dark brown.

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## SANDPIPER, GREEN.

TOTANUS OCHROPUS, *Temm.*

This elegantly-formed bird appears to be most plentiful in Britain in spring and autumn. A few remain here to breed ; but though a considerable number are met with in the winter months, the greater part go for a time to the north of Europe. Solitary in its habits, it frequents pools and small streams, and when disturbed emits a shrill whistling cry. It runs and flies with rapidity, and when on the wing presents a singular appearance, on account of the pure white patch on its rump. Its food consists of worms and insects. The nest is placed among grass on the bank of a stream, and the eggs, of which there are four, are of a greyish white, with dusky spots.

## SANDPIPER, PECTORAL.

*TRINGA PECTORALIS, Jenyns.*

This species inhabits the eastern coasts of North America, and is very abundant on those of the New England States. A very few individuals have been obtained in England. Its habits appear to be similar to those of the Dunlin and other species, and like the Snipe it is found in damp meadows and marshes. Its flight, which resembles that of the Knot, is firm and rapid. It runs with great agility, and probes the sand or wet earth, immersing its bill up to the base.

This species prefer the sea-coasts to the interior. They feed on seeds, small crustacea, some kinds of sea-weed, insects, &c. Nothing is known of their breeding-places, and of the changes of plumage which they undergo.

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SANDPIPER, PURPLE.*TRINGA MARITIMA, Penn.*

Although not extremely rare in England, the Purple Sandpipers, which closely resemble the Dunlins in their manner of flying and walking, or rather running, along the shore, are not very fre-

quently met with, partly because they seldom form large flocks, and partly on account of their confining themselves, while searching for food, to the rocky parts of the coast. They appear with us about the middle of October, and remain until the end of spring. No instance of their breeding in this country has been recorded. They are common in summer in the northern parts of Europe and North America, where they breed, also in Iceland. The colour of their eggs is yellowish grey, interspersed with small irregular spots of pale brown at the larger end.

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## SANDPIPER, SPOTTED.

*TOTANUS MACULARIUS, Temm.*

This species is abundant in many parts of North America, where it is migratory. Its habits, as detailed by the ornithologists of that country, are similar to those of our common Sandpiper, which it resembles very closely in form. Individuals have been shot on the continent of Europe, and a few are recorded to have been obtained in England. Like the common Sandpiper it is mostly seen while running nimbly along the margins of rivers, brooks, &c. When on the ground it is in constant motion, flirting the tail up and down, and almost as frequently stretching out and again with-

drawing the head and neck. The eggs are pale reddish white, spotted and speckled with grey and two shades of reddish brown.

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## SANDPIPER, WOOD.

TOTANUS GLAREOLA, *Temm.*

The Wood Sandpiper is described by ornithologists as pretty common in the southern and eastern parts of Europe, and it has been discovered occasionally in Sweden, inhabiting swampy woods during summer, and breeding as far north as the Arctic circle, both in Norway and Lapland. It has been found also in India and at the Cape of Good Hope. It occurs annually on the southern and eastern coasts of England, in the course of its autumnal and spring migrations. It is not unfrequently seen to perch on the upper twigs of a bush, a habit which appears to be peculiar also to the Redshank and some others of the same genus. The nest is generally placed at a short distance from the water, among stunted scrubby plants or coarse grass and rushes. The eggs, four in number, are pointed in shape, and of a pale greenish white, spotted and speckled, particularly over the broad end, with dark reddish brown. The food of the Wood Sandpiper consists of worms and insects.



## SANDPIPER, YELLOW-SHANKED.

TOTANUS FLAVIPES, *Aud.*

A specimen of this American Sandpiper was shot at Misson, near Bawtry, on the borders of Lincolnshire, during the winter of 1854-5, and passed into the hands of Sir William Milner, Bart. This species inhabits the sea-coasts and salt marshes during summer, and frequents the flats at low water, where it may be seen walking among the mud in search of its food, which consists of small fish, shrimps, worms, and aquatic insects.

In Carolina and Florida they are rather common, frequenting the rice-fields and margins of clear inland streams. They are also found on the coast of Labrador, and breed in considerable numbers about Pictou. The nests are described as placed among the grass on the edges of the rivers and large ponds of the interior.

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SHEARWATER, DUSKY.

DUSKY PETREL.

PUFFINUS OBSCURUS, *Temm.*

This species is said to be rare on the Mediterranean, but common on the coast of Africa, extending southward to the Cape of Good Hope. It is

also found on the north-west coast of America, and in Bermuda. The only instance of the capture of one in Britain was communicated to the late Mr. Yarrell, by B. Blackburn, Esq., of Valentia Harbour, in the county of Kerry. This gentleman states that the bird flew from on board a small sloop off the island of Valentia, on the south-west coast of Ireland, on the 11th May, 1853.

The Dusky Shearwaters skim very low over the sea in search of the floating bunches of marine plants usually called the gulf weed. On approaching a mass of weeds they raise their wings obliquely, drop their legs and feet, run as it were on the water, on which they at length alight, swimming with as much ease as ducks, and diving freely under the surface in pursuit of fish. They lay but one egg, which is pure white.

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## SHEARWATER, GREAT.

PUFFINUS MAJOR, *Temm.*

This species has generally been mistaken for the Cinerous Shearwater, which inhabits the Mediterranean. It is said to be abundant in the Arctic Seas, and ranges in winter from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Several individuals have occurred in England; but very little appears to be known respecting this species as an inhabitant of our seas. In Iceland it is said to be scarce, and is only seen

on the most southern parts of the island, where it is not known to breed. Specimens have also been obtained from South Africa; and it is said to breed on the banks of Newfoundland. These birds not only frequent the coast, but are found at vast distances from land. They feed on fish carcases of various kinds, crustacea, and marine insects, as well as on fatty matters floating on the surface of the sea.

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## SHEARWATER, MANKS.

*Puffinus anglorum, Flem.*

This species inhabits the northern coasts of Europe in summer, arriving generally in March, and departing in September. It is said to breed in the Shetland and Orkney Islands, and in St. Kilda, laying a single large egg in a hole or fissure of the cliffs. It is an oceanic bird of wandering habits, somewhat nocturnal, like the Petrels, and having a rapid gliding flight. Its food consists of animal substances of various kinds picked up from the river, generally while the bird is hovering. In common with the Petrels, it has a habit, which is peculiar also to the Gulls, of letting down its feet while hovering, and patting the water with them.

## SHRIKE, GREAT GREY.

## CINEREOUS SHRIKE.

LANIUS EXCUBITOR, *Lin.*

This species is an inhabitant of the northern countries of Europe. It has been found in various parts of England—where, however, it is only an occasional or accidental visitor—in Ireland also, and less frequently in Scotland. It preys on insects, frogs, lizards, small birds, and quadrupeds, which it affixes to a thorn, or jams into the fork of a branch, to enable it to tear them to pieces. It is extremely courageous, attacking birds and other animals much superior to itself in size. Wooded and inclosed situations are its favourite haunts, and it builds in trees and bushes. The female lays six or seven bluish white eggs, spotted with yellowish brown.

## SHRIKE, RED-BACKED.

## BUTCHER BIRD.

LANIUS COLLURIO, *Lin.*

The Red-backed Shrike is a regular periodical visitant in Britain, arriving in the spring, and

remaining until September or October. During its residence with us it is but partially distributed, being confined principally to the Southern and Midland Counties, becoming more rare as we proceed northwards, and being hitherto altogether unknown in Scotland. It frequents the margins of woods, thickets, and tall hedges, as well as open downs and commons more or less covered with furze. It feeds on insects, small birds, and mice. It builds in hedges, &c., and lays five or six eggs of a light cream colour, sometimes tinged with blue, and marked with spots of a reddish brown and pale purplish grey.

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## SHRIKE, WOODCHAT.

*LANIUS RUTILUS, Penn.*

This species, which is abundant in many parts of Africa, visits the European continent in spring, and leaves it in September and October. Several instances of its occurrence in this country are also recorded. Its food consists of insects, and occasionally small birds and quadrupeds. In size, in most of its habits, and in its mode of feeding, the Woodchat resembles the common Red Shrike. It is said to build invariably in the fork of a projecting branch of a tree. The nest is composed on the outside of sticks, and of white moss from the

bodies of the trees, and lined with fine grass and wool. The eggs, four or five in number, are rather smaller than those of the Red-backed Shrike, and vary much in markings, the ground colour being pale blue in some, in others a dirty white, surrounded near the longer end with a zone of rust-coloured spots, and occasionally of a pale colour, more disposed over the surface. It is not a wild bird, often building close to houses and public roads.

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### SISKIN, OR ABERDEVINE.

*FRINGILLA SPINUS, Lin.*

The true habitat of this bird appears to be in the northern part of Europe, as it is plentiful in Sweden, Norway, and the north of Germany. It appears in autumn and winter in flocks, feeding on the seeds of thistles and other plants, as well as on those of the birch and alder, which it extracts from the cones. When engaged in this manner it clings to the twigs in all sorts of attitudes, and is commonly so intent on its occupation as to allow a person to approach unnoticed. Its food, in addition to the seeds already mentioned, comprises those of the pine, elm, maple, &c. It has of late years been found breeding in Scotland and England. It builds its nest in the highest branches of the pine. The eggs, four or five in number, are of a

bluish colour, speckled with purplish red. It is easily tamed, and like the Goldfinch, may be taught a variety of tricks. In a confined state it readily breeds with the Canary.

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## SMEW.

*MERGUS ALBELLUS, Lin.*

This species, which is a native of the Arctic regions of both continents, and which passes the summer in the colder regions, retires southwards in the end of October, and visits the southern parts of England in moderate numbers, but is rarely met with in Scotland. Its flight is quick and direct, but it walks with difficulty. It feeds on small fish, crustacea, and aquatic insects, and is an excellent diver. It constructs a rather bulky nest, which it lines with down. It lays seven or eight cream-coloured eggs, specimens of which have been obtained in Iceland. Young birds, frequently called Red-headed Smews, are much more commonly taken than old males.

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## SNIFE, BROWN.

RED-BREADED SNIFE.

*SCOLOPAX GRISEA, Penn.*

This species is extremely abundant on the coasts of the United States of America, where it is found

during its progress to and from the northern districts, in which it breeds. In the western Continent it frequents the sand-bars and mud-flats at low water, in search of food, and being less suspicious of a boat than of a person on shore, is easily approached. The Brown Snipe is said to be well known in the fur countries, and to have an extensive breeding range from the borders of Lake Superior to the Arctic Seas. Montagu first recorded its occurrence in England, having obtained a male which was shot on the coast of Devonshire; and other individuals have since been killed in this country.

## SNIPÉ, COMMON.

### BLEATER.

*SCOLOPAX GALLINAGO, Lin.*

This species is generally distributed in Great Britain and Ireland, residing in marshy places, moors, and wet meadows. In summer it leaves its southern haunts and breeds on the heaths and moorland, where it forms a slight nest in a hollow. It lays four eggs of a greyish yellow colour, tinged with greenish blue, and irregularly patched with dark brown and brownish grey spots. In winter it betakes itself to the lower parts of the country. It feeds chiefly at night, procuring its food by plunging its bill into the mud.



The flight of the Snipe, on being flushed, is at first in a zigzag direction, until it has proceeded some distance, when it ascends and pursues its course at a higher elevation.

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## SNIPE, GREAT.

### SOLITARY SNIPE.

*SCOLOPAX MAJOR, Mont.*

This species, although it has been met with not very unfrequently in England, is apparently an irregular winter visitant. Being somewhat similar in appearance to our Common Snipe, it is probably mistaken for it. It is generally dispersed over the Continent, where it is met with singly or in pairs. It frequents the edges of grassy swamps and the borders of small rills. Its food seems to consist entirely of the larvæ of tipula or Daddy Long-legs. It breeds in Holland and the mountainous parts of Norway and Sweden, placing its nest on a tuft of grass, near the willow bushes on the borders of swamps. The eggs, four in number, are of a yellow olive brown, spotted with two shades of reddish brown.

## SNIFE, JACK.

JUDCOCK.

*SCOLOPAX GALLINULA, Lin.*

This species arrives in England the end of October, and departs in March and April. It is generally dispersed over the country, residing in marshy places by the margins of rivers and lakes, and in ditches—in short, in localities of the same nature as those frequented by the Common Snipe. Several individuals of this species are rarely seen together; and it is not nearly so numerous as that before mentioned. The Jack Snipe feeds on smaller insects than the Common Snipe. Seeds, and such small white larvæ as are found in black bogs, are its favourite food. It has been found breeding in Lapland and Finland. The egg is of a yellowish olive hue, blotched and spotted with two shades of brown.

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## SNIFE, SABINE'S.

*SCOLOPAX SABINI, Flem.*

This species was first described by Mr. Vigors, in the 14th volume of the Transactions of the Linnæan Society, from an individual killed in

Queen's County, Ireland, in 1822; and a few specimens have since been obtained in England and Ireland. Singular as it may appear, Sabine's Snipe does not seem even yet to have fallen into the hands of any Naturalist out of the British Islands, and consequently very little is known of its habits. It is at once distinguished from every other European species of Snipe, by the total absence of white from its plumage, or of any of those lighter tints of ferruginous yellow which extend more or less in stripes along the head and back of them all.

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## SPARROW, HOUSE.

### COMMON SPARROW.

#### FRINGILLA DOMESTICA, *Lin.*

The House Sparrow, the boldest and most familiar of our small birds, is generally dispersed in Great Britain and Ireland, residing in towns, villages, farm-buildings, and seldom betaking itself to places remote from human habitations. In autumn and winter the Sparrows, usually in large flocks, search the fields for grain and seeds, after committing in the former season considerable havoc among wheat. Stackyards and dunghills are their favourite places of resort at all seasons. They build their nest in any convenient locality, at a

considerable height from the ground. The nest is composed of straw, loose twigs, &c., and lined with wool, hair, and feathers. The eggs, varying from six to eight in number, are of a greyish white, with spots of pale grey, but the distinctive markings differ very much in various specimens.

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## SPARROW, TREE.

### MOUNTAIN SPARROW.

*FRINGILLA MONTANA, Lin.*

This is a common species on the Continent, and is distributed in moderate numbers in some parts of England. Although in its mode of flight and general habits it resembles the common species, it differs from it in several respects. It is a bird of retired habits, and is never found to frequent villages or single dwellings, but is generally to be met with where old trees hollowed by decay are abundant. It is in the hollows of these, particularly of pollards, that it finds a congenial retreat, and a convenient situation for its nest, the materials of which are hay and straw, intermixed with a lining of feathers. Its eggs, four or five in number, are similar to those of the House Sparrow, but of rather smaller dimensions.

## S P O O N B I L L.

## WHITE SPOONBILL.

PLATALEA LEUCORDIA, *Lin.*

The Spoonbill is extensively distributed over the temperate and warmer parts of Europe. Among other places it is common in Holland, where it is migratory ; but of rare and irregular occurrence at the present time in Great Britain. It is remarkable for its white colour, crest, and spoon or spatula-like bill. It breeds among reeds or rushes in the marshes, or near the lakes to which it resorts. The nests, several of which are placed near each other, are made of reeds bound together by weeds, and not lined with any softer material. The female lays from two to four broad white eggs, marked with spots of a pale reddish brown.

## S T A R L I N G, C O M M O N.

## STARE.

STURNUS VULGARIS, *Lin.*

The Starling, which is widely dispersed through Britain, is nowhere more common than in the northern and western isles of Scotland, where it breeds in caves, crevices of rocks, and holes in the

turf. In the more northern parts of the island it forms its nest in hollow trees, old buildings, and rocks. The eggs, from four to six in number, are of a very pale greenish blue tinge, and glossy in appearance. The Starling, which is a gregarious bird, flies with considerable rapidity, walks and runs with ease, and searches the pastures for worms, larvæ, and insects. Its song is pleasant, and, when tamed, it can be taught to whistle tunes, and even to imitate the sound of the human voice, so far as to articulate words. During autumn these birds gather into large flocks, and repair to the fenny counties, where they roost among the reeds.

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### STARLING, RED-WINGED.

#### MARSH BLACKBIRD, OR MAIZE BIRD.

*AGELARUS PHŒNICEUS, Aud.*

This bird, which is very abundant in North America, has been captured in England in two or three instances; and some of its habits having been observed to resemble those of our well-known Starling, the name of Red-winged Starling was given to it. Audubon says of them, "Towards evening they alight in the marshes in immense numbers, and in compact bodies settle on the reeds and rushes close above the water, and remain during the night, unless disturbed."

Flocks of these birds assail the various corn crops whenever they are in a state to afford them food, and after the harvest is gathered, the profuse gleanings of the old rice, corn, and buckwheat fields supply them abundantly. They breed in swampy places in Pennsylvania, &c., in the beginning of May. Their eggs are of a pale bluish white, with a circle of spots and streaks of dark liver brown round the thick end, and one or two scattered spots of the same colour, and some faint blotches of purplish grey."

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## STILT, BLACK-WINGED.

### LONG-LEGGED, OR STILT PLOVER.

*HIMANTOPUS MELANOPTERUS, Flem.*

This species, which is said to be plentiful in many parts of Asia and the south-eastern portions of Europe, migrates into Germany, France, and Italy, and has been in several instances obtained in England. It is of a singular slender form, with legs so extremely elongated as at once to suggest the idea of a bird walking on stilts. It flies with rapidity, walks and runs with celerity, vibrating its body, and when standing is remarkably vociferous. It prefers the margins of lakes to the sides of rivers, and searches the mud and sand for worms, insects, &c., often wading far into the water in pursuit of its natural prey. It breeds in

Tangier, laying four eggs of a greenish blue colour, blotched and streaked with ash green and dark brown.

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## STINT, LITTLE.

### LITTLE SANDPIPER.

*TRINGA MINUTA, Flem.*

This diminutive species is occasionally met with at various times, generally in autumn, on several parts of the English shores. It occurs abundantly at the same period, and also in winter, in Holland, Germany, Switzerland, and Dalmatia. In France also it has been obtained both in summer and winter. Generally found in company with the Dunlins and Sandpipers, it selects for its food aquatic insects, worms, &c. Of its breeding ground, or its habits at that season, very little is known. The egg is said to resemble that of the Common Sandpiper in colour and markings, but is much smaller in size.

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## STINT, NORTH AMERICAN.

*TRINGA FUSILLA, Lin.*

This species, a native of North America, was recorded in the Zoologist as having occurred at



Penzance, in the autumn of 1864. They very much resemble the last species in habits, colour, and general appearance, but are smaller in size, the legs also being shorter. In summer they retire northward, and are found at the breeding season in Labrador. During spring and autumn they frequent the shores of New Jersey and New York, the banks of the Ohio, and South Carolina; and in winter they are observed in Florida. They obtain their food chiefly by probing, but they also pick up substances from the surface of the ground.

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## STINT, TEMMINCK'S.

### TEMMINCK'S SANDPIPER.

#### *TRINGA TEMMINCKII, Selby.*

This species is distinguished from the two last-mentioned by dimensions somewhat smaller than either, by the different colours of the back, the shortness of the legs, and a somewhat wedge-shaped tail. In England it has been obtained in the counties of Devon, Sussex, and Norfolk; also in the vicinity of London, in the spring and autumn migrations. On the Continent it is pretty generally dispersed; and it repairs northward to breed. The eggs, which have been brought from Lapland, Iceland, and Finland, are of a greyish yellow colour, tinged with blue, and marked with chocolate brown.

## STONECHAT.

*SYLVIA RUBICOLA, Penn.*

This species is generally dispersed in summer, although nowhere very abundant. The greater number of the individuals frequenting this country leave us in autumn ; but specimens have been found both in England and Scotland in winter. It resorts to furzy commons and heaths overgrown with furze, juniper, and other low shrubs. Its favourite station is the top twig of a bush, whence it sallies forth in pursuit of insects. The nest, which is usually placed on the ground, at the bottom of a whin or other bush, is composed of moss and dry grass, lined with hair or feathers. The eggs, of which there are five or six, are of a light greenish blue, marked towards the larger end with small reddish brown spots.

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## STORK, BLACK.

*CICONIA NIGRA, Selby.*

This species is generally dispersed over the eastern and middle parts of the Continent, and occurs occasionally also in the northern and western. Only a very few instances are recorded

of its capture in Britain. The character of the Black Stork is in one respect diametrically opposed to that of the White Stork. Instead of allowing itself to be domesticated, as it were, with man, it shuns his society, and makes its temporary dwelling in the most secluded spots, frequenting impenetrable morasses, or the banks of such rivers and lakes as are seldom disturbed by the presence of intruders, and building its nest on the summits of the loftier pines. It appears to prefer fish to flesh, but when very hungry, any sort of offal is acceptable. It lays two or three eggs of a buffy white colour.

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## STORK, WHITE.

*CICONIA ALBA, Mont.*

Although extensively dispersed in Europe, and common in Holland during the summer, this species is now very seldom met with in England. In its migrations it avoids alike the extremes of heat and cold; in summer being never seen further north than Sweden or Russia, and in winter not being known to venture further south than Egypt. The food of the Stork consists of serpents, lizards, frogs, small fish, &c., which it finds on the margins of lakes and pools, or in swamps and marshes. It prefers to make its nest in the neighbourhood

of populous places, where it is protected and favoured by the inhabitants, who commonly place nest-boxes on the tops of the houses for its convenience. When these are not provided, the Stork builds on the tops of chimneys, steeples, and lofty ruins. In the nest, which is made of dry sticks, twigs, and aquatic plants, the female lays from two to four yellowish white eggs.

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## SWALLOW, CHIMNEY.

*HIRUNDO RUSTICA, Lin.*

The Chimney Swallow generally makes its appearance in the south of England early in April, but is seldom seen in the northern counties, or in Scotland, before the middle or latter part of that month. Towards the latter end of September it prepares for its migration to the warm regions of Africa, where it passes the winter months. Its food is insects, which it takes with great dexterity on the wing. The nest is placed under the eaves of outhouses, on beams or rafters within them, on the face of rocks, in quarries, in the sides of walls, or in the shafts of old coal pits, and is formed of mud, with a lining of grass and feathers. The eggs, of which there are four or five, are white, speckled with reddish brown.

## SWAN, BEWICK'S.

CYGNUS BEWICKII, *Bew.*

Bewick's Swan, which is much smaller than the Hooper, is found in the north of Europe, and in America, and is not an uncommon species in England and Scotland during winter. Of the habits and manner of this species little appears to be known. When on the water it has somewhat the air and appearance of a Goose, being almost wholly devoid of that grace and majesty by which the Mute Swan is so advantageously distinguished. It is a very shy and timid bird, and can only be approached by stratagem. The breeding places to which it resorts have not been ascertained.

## SWAN, WILD.

HOOPER, OR WHISTLING SWAN.

CYGNUS FERUS, *Flem.*

The Common Wild Swan, though only a winter visitant to the British Islands, has been known to breed on the Shetland and Orkney Islands, and in Sutherlandshire. It also breeds in Lapland, from whence eggs have been procured; and is found in Holland, France, Italy, &c., and as far south as Barbary and Egypt. In America this species has

not been observed. The Hooper feeds on aquatic plants and insects, in the search of which it can keep its head under water for some time, but it never dives. Its nest, which is a large structure, is formed on the ground with flags, rushes, leaves, and marshy plants. The female lays six or seven eggs, tinged with yellowish green.

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## S W A N, M U T E.

### TAME SWAN.

CYGNUS OLOB, *Temm.*

Our "Mute" half-domesticated Swan is too well known to require description; the large tubercle or knob at the base of its bill at once distinguishing this graceful species from its congeners. These birds are far less numerous in the Thames than they used to be. The greatest number at present on that river belong to the Queen, and the Companies of Vintners and Dyers own the next largest proportion. The swan marks are made upon the upper mandible with a knife or other sharp instrument. This elegant bird is said to exist in a wild state in Russia and Siberia.

## SWAN, POLISH.

CYGNUS IMMUTABILIS, *Yar.*

The Polish Swan, a native of the Baltic, was discovered, described, and named by Yarrell, from specimens shot on the east coast of England. It differs from the Mute or Tame Swan, in having a smaller knob at the base of the upper mandible, and feet of a dull grey instead of black colour; besides which there is a considerable difference in the internal structure of various parts of the head. Its food and habits closely resemble those of the Tame Swan; but its cygnets, unlike the young of all other White Swans, are of as snowy a colour as itself.

## SWIFT, COMMON.

DARLING, OR SCREAMER.

CYPSELUS APUS, *Flem.*

The Swift, which is generally dispersed in Great Britain and Ireland, is seldom seen in the northern parts of England before the end of May or the beginning of June, arriving in the south a week or two earlier. It leaves us again for warmer climates in August, a month or six weeks previous to the departure of the Swallows. It resorts

to steeples, towers, ruinous castles, abrupt rocks, and other buildings, in the holes and under the eaves of which it finds a safe retreat and a proper situation to breed in. In Norway and Sweden the Swifts build in hollow trees, forming their nests of straw, moss, wool, &c., which they collect with great dexterity in their flight. The inside of the nest is plastered with a glutinous substance, furnished by glands peculiar to certain birds of this genus. The eggs, of which there are usually two, are of a transparent pinkish white.

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## SWIFT, WHITE-BELLIED.

### ALPINE SWIFT.

*CYPSELUS ALPINUS, Temm.*

Several specimens of this species have been taken in England, and three examples are known to have been captured in Ireland, though it does not migrate regularly as far northward as Britain. It is common in the south of Europe, and in many parts of Africa and Asia. The only peculiarity in the habits of the Alpine Swift is that it appears more partial to cliffs than buildings, the Common Swift rather preferring artificial structures. The nest is made of straw, moss, and other materials, connected firmly together with a glutinous sub-



stance, similar to that used by the other species, which renders the nest very hard and firm when the cement is dry. The eggs, which are white, and four or five in number, are very long in proportion to their breadth.

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## TERN, ARCTIC.

STERNA ARCTICA, *Temm.*

The Arctic Tern, which even on the wing may easily be distinguished from the Common Tern, both by its cry, which is shriller, and by its tail, which is more elongated, is precisely similar in its habits to that species, and frequently occurs intermingled with it. In the northern and western Islands of Scotland, on many parts of the coast of the mainland, and in the Frith of Forth, as well as in various parts of England, it is common. The eggs, of which there are generally three or four, are deposited in sandy or rocky places. They vary greatly in colour, being sometimes of a greyish yellow, and frequently of an olivaceous or brownish hue, with black and purplish grey blotches.

## TERN, BLACK.

STERNA NIGRA, *Flem.*

This species arrives in the south-eastern parts of England about the beginning of May, and departs in September. It frequents fresh water ponds, marshes, and rivers, where it finds the small fish, insects, and reptiles on which it feeds. It is rare in the northern parts of England, and has not been met with in Scotland, but is found in summer in Ireland. On the Continent it is seen in marshy places of great extent, and in America is abundant along the banks of the Mississippi and other rivers, always preferring fresh water to the shores of the sea. The nest is composed of flags and coarse grass, and the eggs, usually three, but sometimes four in number, are of a dark olive brown, blotched and spotted with black, principally at the larger end.

## TERN, CASPIAN.

STERNA CASPIA, *Selby.*

This species of Tern, which is very fine and large, has been met with on our eastern coasts, particularly those of Suffolk and Norfolk. It is said to inhabit the shores of the Baltic, Caspian,

and Mediterranean Seas, but to be of rare or accidental occurrence on the western coasts of Europe. It has also been found in Senegal, and at the Cape of Good Hope. The Caspian Tern is incessantly on the wing, sustaining its flight with apparent ease, and swims buoyantly on the water, but never dives. Its principal food is fish, or animal matters left by the retiring tide. It is said to lay in a hole in the sand, or on the bare rocks near the edge of the sea, two or three eggs of a yellowish stone colour, spotted with ash grey and dark red brown.

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## TERN, COMMON.

### SEA SWALLOW.

*STERNA HIRUNDO, Lin.*

This species visits Germany, Holland, Switzerland, France, Spain, Italy, and Madeira. Specimens have also been received from Trebizond. It is common on all our sandy shores, arriving early in May, and departing in September. It breeds on unfrequented sands, headlands, islands, and sometimes in rocky places, depositing its eggs in a slight hollow. The eggs, generally three in number, vary greatly in colour, specimens being seen of a greyish yellow, olivaceous, or brownish hue, blotched with black and purplish grey. The food of the Common

Tern consists of small fishes, especially sand eels, shrimps, and other marine animals. It is frequently found intermingled with the Arctic Tern.

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### TERN GULL, BILLED.

*STERNA ANGLICA, Mont.*

A few individuals of this species have been met with in the south of England, from one of which it is described by Montagu. It is said to be abundant in Hungary, and towards the borders of Turkey; and in America has been found breeding from the mouth of the Mississippi to Connecticut. It is found also in Egypt and Java, and specimens have been received from Jutland, where it is said to breed. It frequents fresh-water lakes and rivers, rather than the sea-shores, and is said to feed on beetles, dragon-flies, moths, and other insects, which it catches on the wing. It lays two or three eggs of a dark olive brown, spotted with ash colour, and with two shades of dark red brown.

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### TERN, LESSER.

*STERNA MINUTA, Lin.*

The Lesser Tern visits our shores early in May, and although not very numerous anywhere, is met

with along the southern, eastern, and western coasts both of England and Scotland. In summer it is not very uncommon on the sands at Aberdeen, where there is a breeding place, and at the mouth of the Frith of Forth. It is said to be common in the summer on the shores of the Baltic, and is known to visit Russia and Siberia. In Germany, Holland, France, and Italy, on the shores of the Black and Caspian seas, and in India and the United States, it is extensively distributed. The female lays two or three eggs, of a stone colour, marked and speckled with ash grey and chestnut brown spots.

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## TERN, NODDY.

STERNA STOLIDA, *Lin.*

This species has been found in the Gulf of Mexico, on the shores of Florida, and on the coast of France. Two specimens were shot in the summer of 1840, between the Tasker Light-House, off the coast of Wexford, and Dublin Bay. It is said that this bird is a summer visitor to St. George's Channel. It seeks its food at some distance from land, but occasionally pursues its prey into the estuaries of the larger Irish rivers, or along the outer shores of the coast. The nest, which is formed of twigs

and dry grass, is placed on bushes or low trees, but never on the ground. It lays three eggs of a reddish yellow colour, spotted with dull red and faint purple.

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## TERN, ROSEATE.

*STERNA DOUGALLII, Mont.*

This beautiful Tern, which was discovered by Dr. Macdougall, on the Cambray Islands, in the Frith of Clyde, and afterwards described by Montagu, has since been found on various parts of the coast in England, Scotland, and Ireland. It does not appear, however, so often on the southern shores as on the west or east coast. It has been found also in Norway, the countries on the Baltic, Germany, France, Italy, the island of Madeira, and Cape of Good Hope. It is said to be abundant too in some parts of America. The eggs, which are rather larger than those of the Arctic Tern, are of a yellowish stone colour, speckled with ash grey and dark brown spots. It is reported to breed in the Solway Frith, and as far north as Lapland. It feeds upon small fish.

## TERN, SANDWICH.

STERNA CAUTIIACA, *Mont.*

This species is very extensively dispersed, being found on the coasts of both Continents. It arrives in this country about the middle of May, and departs by the end of September. It frequents for the most part the south-eastern shores of England, but several specimens have also been obtained from the mouth of the Frith of Forth. It has a strong and rapid flight, and except when engaged in incubation, is almost constantly on the wing. It feeds upon small fishes and crustacea, which it picks up from the water or on the sea-shore. It deposits its eggs in a shallow hole in sand or turf. These are of a yellowish stone colour, spotted and speckled with ash grey, orange brown, and deep red brown, and generally are not more than three in number.

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## TERN, SOOTY.

STERNA FULIGINOSA, *Aud.*

A single bird of this species was shot in 1852, at Tutbury, near Burton-on-Trent, and was purchased by W. H. Desvœux, Esq., of Drakelow Hall, for his collection. This is the only example known

to have been killed in Britain; and another which met the same fate at Proeda, near Magdeburg, is the only other specimen, said to have been taken in Europe. The Sooty Tern, which is a bird of great power of flight, is known to have a very wide geographical range, being included among the birds of Australia, New Holland, the Island of Ascension, the South Sea Islands, and various parts of America, where it has been found to breed plentifully. It is one of those birds which form no nest, but deposit their eggs, three in number, in a slight cavity which they scoop in the sand. The eggs are of a pale cream colour, sparingly marked with various tints of lightish amber and lighter marks of purple.

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## TERN, WHISKERED.

*STERNA LEUCOPAREIA, Natt.*

There is only one recorded instance of the capture of an individual of this species in England, namely, that which was shot by the late Mr. Heysham, of Carlisle, at Lyme, Dorsetshire, in August, 1836. No specimen of this bird had previously been killed nearer than the coast of Picardy. The Whiskered Tern is rather peculiar in appearance, a whisker being formed by a white line which extends from the base of the upper bill to the ear, while other



parts of the plumage are grey. But little is known of the habits of this bird, which has been noticed in the southern part of Hungary, in Germany, on the coast of Dalmatia, and rarely in Italy. It is said to feed on winged insects and aquatic worms ; but its mode of nesting and the appearance of its eggs are unknown.

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## TERN, WHITE.

### WINGED BLACK.

*STERNA LEUCOPTERA, Temm.*

A specimen of this Tern was shot on the Shannon, in 1841, in company with the Black Tern, with which it was confounded. This specimen was sent, along with one of the latter species, to the Natural History Society of Dublin, in whose Museum these examples of both species are now preserved. The White-winged Tern inhabits the bays and inlets of the shores of the Mediterranean, and is common about Gibraltar. It also visits the lakes, rivers, and marshes of the countries in the vicinity of the Alps ; and is found in Germany, Scandinavia, Dalmatia, &c. The food of the White-winged Tern consists principally of dragon-flies and other winged aquatic insects. Nothing is known either of the eggs or of the winter plumage of this species.

## THRUSH, GOLD-VENTED.

TURDUS CHRYSORHÆUS, *Temm.*

A specimen of this rare African Thrush was shot at Mount Beresford, near Waterford, and purchased by Dr. R. Burkitt, of Waterford, who skinned and preserved it. Dr. Burkitt sent this specimen for exhibition in the Natural History Section of the British Association, then about to hold a meeting at Cork. Le Vaillant states that a male of this species was shot on the banks of the Grootvis river during his travels in the Caffre country.

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## THRUSH, MISSEL.

STORM COCK.

TURDUS VISCIVORUS, *Lin.*

The Missel Trush is permanently resident in England. It is common also in Scotland and Ireland. It inhabits Scandinavia and Russia, but does not extend so far as Siberia. It is found also in Germany, France, and the central portions

of Europe, &c. In its habits it is gregarious. In winter it feeds in the open fields on worms, larvæ, and seeds. Its nest, rather bulky in size, and formed in bushes or on trees, is plastered internally with mud, and lined with roots, grass, and moss. The eggs, four or five in number, and an inch and three-quarters long, are of a flesh colour or purplish red hue. The song of the Missel Thrush resembles that of the Blackbird, but its notes are less mellow and modulated.

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## THRUSH, ROCK.

*TURDUS SAXATILIS, Temm.*

A specimen of this beautiful bird, figured and described by Mr. Yarrell, was obtained in 1843, by Mr. Thomas Trigg, who shot it at Therfield, near Royston, in Hertfordshire. According to Temminck this species frequents the highest rocky mountains, and is met with in Switzerland, the Tyrol, Hungary, Turkey, the Archipelago, the Apennines, the Alps, and the Pyrenees. Along the coasts of the Mediterranean, in Germany, on the high mountains of France, and on the Volga, it is found more rarely. Its nest is constructed of moss, in a fissure of rocks, or

among the loose rough masses at their base, and in it are deposited four eggs, of a greenish blue colour, without any spots.

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## THRUSH, SONG.

THROSTLE, OR MAVIS.

*Turdus musicus*, *Lin.*

This species is common during summer in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Russia, and extends over Germany, France, Italy, and the Morea. In winter it has been seen in the neighbourhood of Smyrna and Trebizond. It is also generally distributed in Great Britain and Ireland, occurring as a permanent resident in the bare northern isles, as well as in the more wooded and cultivated districts of the south. It feeds on worms, insects, snails, and berries, and becomes somewhat gregarious in winter. The song of this bird surpasses that of any other British Thrush. The nest is rather rude in structure, being lined with cow-dung, particles of decayed wood, or mud, without any covering. The eggs, generally five in number, are of a bright bluish green, with scattered spots of brownish black.

## THRUSH, WHITE'S.

TURDUS WHITEI, *Eyton.*

This species appears to be widely dispersed, being found not only in parts of Europe, but in Japan, Java, Australia, and Southern Siberia. On the banks of the Elbe at Hamburg, it has been shot; and two specimens are recorded to have been obtained in this country, namely, one by the Earl of Malmesbury, on his estate at Heron Court, near Christchurch, and the other was killed in the New Forest. Of the habits of the White Thrush little appears to be known. The large size of its wings indicates that it is possessed of considerable migratorial powers. Of its breeding places nothing is known.

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## TITMOUSE, BEARDED.

PARUS BIARMICUS, *Lin.*

This beautiful bird is said to be extensively dispersed over the Continent, inhabiting the marshy borders of rivers and lakes. In England it is found chiefly along the banks of the Thames, and in Cambridge, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Lincoln. It

resides among the reeds and other aquatic plants, clinging to their stems in the manner of the other Tits, Siskins, and Redpoles. The nest, generally placed in a tuft of grass or rushes on the ground, is composed of leaves of grass and sedge, lined with panicles of seeds. The eggs, five or six in number, are white, with a few light red lines and dots. The food of the Bearded Titmouse consists of aquatic insects and their larvæ, with the seeds of such grasses and plants as are found in moist situations.

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## TITMOUSE, BLUE.

*PARUS CÆRULEUS, Lin.*

This beautiful and lively species is very common in most districts, frequenting gardens, orchards, and woods, where it feeds on insects, larvæ, seeds, and various other substances. In winter it is often seen about farm-yards, the doors of country houses, and dunghills, where it picks up grain and other matters. In spring it commits great havoc among the birds, probably while it is in search of insects. The nest, which is placed in the chink of a wall, under the eaves or thatch of a cottage, or in the hollow of a tree, is composed of moss, grass, and wool, lined with hair and feathers. The eggs, the numbers of which vary from six to ten, or more, are of a reddish white, irregularly

spotted with light red marks. The Blue Titmouse is often found in winter traversing the woods in company with the Cole Tit and others.

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### TITMOUSE, COLE.

*PARUS ATER, Lin.*

The favourite abode of this species is in forests and plantations of fir and pine, where it wanders about in troops, often composed of a vast number of individuals, including the Gold-crested Wren, the Long-tailed and Blue Tit, with which it usually associates. Although partial to fir-woods, it also frequents those of birch, oak, and alder. Its nest, which is placed in a hole or crevice in a wall, or in a decayed tree, is composed of moss, intermixed with hair, and lined with wool and hair. The eggs, varying from five to eight in number, are white, with light red spots. During its flight, which is short and straight, it emits a sharp cheeping note; and in searching for its insect food, it exhibits the greatest activity.

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### TITMOUSE, CRESTED.

*PARUS CRESTATUS, Lin.*

This species inhabits Denmark, the more temperate parts of Russia and Sweden, where it is said

to remain all the year, inhabiting the pine forests, building its nest in the hollows of trees, and feeding on insects in their different stages, and on the small seeds of various evergreens. It also inhabits the forests of Germany, and the fir-covered mountains of Switzerland. In this country it has hitherto been found only in the pine forests of the north of Scotland. The Crested Titmouse appears partial to woods where fir and oak trees abound, the holes in the latter generally serving for its nest. The female lays eight or ten white eggs, varied with a few spots of pale red.

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## TITMOUSE, GREAT.

PARUS MAJOR, *Lin.*

This species, which is less gregarious than other birds of the same genus, is generally distributed in wooded and cultivated districts, frequenting woods, thickets, and occasionally gardens, where it feeds on insects, seeds, buds, &c. It is extremely active, and in spring and summer is remarkable for its curious song, which resembles the sound produced by sharpening the teeth of a saw. Its nest, which is usually placed in the hole of a wall, or in a hollow space formed expressly in the wood of a decayed tree, is composed of moss, leaves,



shreds of bark, wool, hair, feathers, &c ; and should it be attacked by other birds it is defended by the Titmouse with great energy. The eggs, about six in number, are of a bluish white, dotted with red.

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### TITMOUSE, LONG-TAILED.

*PARUS CAUDATUS, Lin.*

This singular-looking bird, the most diminutive of our British species, except the Golden-crested Wren, is found throughout Europe and the colder parts of Asia, generally distributed in the wooded and cultivated districts. Its habits are similar to those of the other Tits, with which it occasionally associates ; but it differs from them in attaching its nest to the branches of trees. The nest is of an oblong form, composed of moss and lichens, lined with feathers, and having an aperture near the top, as well as at the bottom, for escape. The eggs are next in size to those of the Golden-crested Wren, and their thin white surface is generally marked with numerous faint red spots or dots at the larger end.

## TITMOUSE, MARSH.

PARUS PALUSTRIS, *Lin.*

This species is more common in England than in Scotland, but does not confine itself to marshy places. Its habits are similar to those of the Cole Tit, but in winter it feeds partly on seeds. It breeds in the holes of old willows and such trees as occur in its peculiar haunts, frequently excavating for itself the intended habitation of its brood, carrying it to a considerable depth, and always making it a little wider at the bottom, for the receptions of the nest, which is composed of moss, mixed with the seed-down of the willow, and lined with a warm coating of the same material. The eggs, from six to eight in number, are white, with reddish brown spots, most numerous towards the larger end.

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TURNSTONE.STREPSILAS INTERPRES, *Flem.*

The Turnstones appear on our coasts in the end of October, and remain until the beginning of May, or somewhat later. They frequent the rocky coasts and gravelly places more than the sands, keeping in flocks, and feeding on small

mollusca, crustacea, and worms. This bird is widely spread over both Continents, and is known to breed in Norway, where its nest and eggs have been obtained; the former placed against a ledge of rock under a slanting stone, and well sheltered under the drooping branches of some creeping plant. The eggs, of which there are four, are of an olive green colour, spotted and streaked with ash blue and two shades of reddish brown.

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## VULTURE, EGYPTIAN OR ALPINE.

VULTUR PERCNOPTERUS, *Lin.*

The Egyptian Vulture does not live in flocks like the other Vultures, but in pairs, although when attracted by a carcase several may be seen together. It is frequently observed in Egypt and in other parts, but only one of this species has been taken in England. It builds its nest on high rocks, the female laying two eggs variegated with rich brown spots, the under colour being of a lighter hue. Vultures are numerous in warm countries, where the great heat induces the rapid decomposition of all animal matter, of which their food chiefly consists. Unless pressed by extreme hunger, Vultures seldom attack living animals, preferring carrion, and other putrefying substances.

## VULTURE, GRIFFON OR FULVOUS.

*VULTUR FULVUS, Temm.*

Only in one instance have we any record of the capture of this species of Vulture in the United Kingdom. This specimen was taken in 1843, in Cork Harbour, and is now in Trinity College, Dublin. The Griffin Vulture is not uncommon in France, Germany, and the Pyrenees, where it builds its nest, which is of immense size, on high and almost inaccessible rocks. The female lays two or three elongated white eggs.

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## WAGTAIL, GREY.

*MOTACILLA BOARULA, Lin.*

The Grey Wagtail, as a species, is far less numerous than the Pied Wagtail. With some exceptions it may be considered in this country as a summer visitor to the more northern counties, migrating in autumn as a winter visitor to those of the south. It frequents the margins of streams, pools, and lakes, and is generally distributed in the lower and more cultivated parts. It breeds on the shelves of those rocky precipices that so often form the banks of our northern rivers. The nest is

made of moss and dry grass, and lined with hair. The eggs, commonly six in number, are of a yellowish grey colour, blotched with a darker shade of the same hue. Its food consists of insects and their larvæ.

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## WAGTAIL GREY-HEADED.

### BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL.

*MOTACILLA FLAVA, Lin.*

This species is generally dispersed over the Continent, where the Yellow or Ray's Wagtail is met with. It has been found in several instances in England, and once or twice in Scotland. On the Continent it inhabits moist meadows and the gravelly edges of rivers. It is common over the central parts of Europe, and in Sweden and Norway is a summer visitor. It is also included among the Birds of Japan. This species makes its nest on the ground in holes, sometimes among the roots of trees in corn-fields, and in meadows. The female lays about six eggs, very like those of Ray's Wagtail. Its food consists of flies, moths, small green caterpillars, &c.

## WAGTAIL, PIED.

WATER WAGTAIL, OR DISH-WASHER.

MOTACILLA YARRELLII, *Gould.*

This is a very common and elegant bird, generally distributed in Great Britain and Ireland; but on the Continent hitherto observed only in the north of France, Sweden, and Norway. It usually frequents the margins of streams, ditches, pools, lakes, &c., but is often seen in dry pastures and stony places. The nest, which is placed by the side of a river or stream, on a rocky bank, in a quarry, among grass, on a heap of stones, or in the hole of a wall, is composed of dry grass, moss, and leaves, and lined with wool and hair, sometimes with feathers. The eggs, of which there are five or six, are of a greyish white, spotted with grey and brown.

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WAGTAIL, RAY'S.

YELLOW WAGTAIL.

MOTACILLA FLAVEOLA, *Temm.*

This Wagtail is migratory, arriving in England about the end of March, and disappearing in September. As it frequently resorts, on its first

arrival, to the newly-sown lands, it has obtained in many districts the provincial name of Oat-seed Bird. It is not so generally diffused as the last species, but adheres to particular districts, namely, open arable ground and extensive upland sheep pastures. Its habits are similar to those of the other Wagtails, but it is more addicted to searching for insects on plants. Its nest is built upon the ground, and lined with hair, and the eggs, four or five in number, are of a pale brown hue, sprinkled with dots of a darker tint.

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## WAGTAIL, WHITE.

*MOTACILLA ALBA, Lin.*

This species is found in summer as far north as the Arctic regions, and in Sweden and Norway. It is only a summer visitor to Britain, while many of the better known Pied Wagtails remain with us all the year. The permanent pearl grey, or light ash grey, of its back, appears to be its most obvious distinction. Its habits are similar to those of its congeners. Its food consists of insects and their larvæ. The nest is placed among grass in meadows, or in a fissure of decayed buildings or rocks, &c., where five or six eggs, of a bluish white colour, spotted with black, are deposited.

## WARBLER, BLACK CAP.

SYLVIA ATRICAPILLA, *Penn.*

The Blackcap is widely dispersed through the northern and eastern parts of Europe, extending as far north as Lapland, and southward to the Pyrenees. It is generally distributed in England, and occurs in the south of Scotland. It arrives in April, and departs in September; but being shy and of hiding habits, is not easily discovered. Its song is delightful, and in the opinion of some little inferior to that of the Nightingale. The nest, which is loosely constructed, and lined with fibrous roots and hair, is placed in the fork of a shrub, or on the ground. The eggs, four or five in number, are of a greyish white, faintly mottled and freckled with purplish grey, and some streaks of blackish brown. Its food consists of insects and the smaller sorts of fruit.

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## WARBLER, BLUE-THROATED.

SYLVIA SUECICA, *Temm.*

This species is said to be by no means uncommon in various parts of the Continent, extending from Spain and Italy to Siberia, Russia, Finland,



and the north of Sweden. An individual was shot near Newcastle, in May, 1826, and another in Dorsetshire. It is found in low swampy grounds, on the woody borders of boggy heaths, and on the banks of streams running through wet springy meadows, where there is abundance of alder and willow underwood. The nest is placed on the ground, among the plants of bog myrtle, in places overgrown with coarse grass, or in the bottom of stubs of scrubby brushwood in wet situations. The nest is composed of dead grass and a little moss, lined with finer grass. The eggs, from four to six in number, are of a uniform greenish blue: and those of an allied species, found in Sweden and Lapland, are greenish blue, freckled with brown. The food of the Blue-throated Warbler consists of earthworms, insects, and berries.

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## WARBLER, CHIFF-CHAFF.

LESSER PETTY-CHAPS, OR LEAST WILLOW WREN.

*SYLVA RUFA, Temm.*

This species, which is found in Italy during the winter, is one of the earliest arrivals of our migratory Warblers, and is easily recognized by its well-known note or cry of Chiff-chaff, which it frequently repeats. It is a common bird in the

southern and midland districts of England, but in Northumberland and the other parts of North Britain is not so numerous as either the Wood or Willow Warbler; neither is it common in Ireland. It frequents woods and thickets, preferring the shades of solitary coverts and thick hedges. The nest, which is oval or rounded, and placed on or near to the ground, has a hole in the side, similar to that of the Willow Wren. It is formed of dry grass, withered leaves, &c., and lined with a quantity of feathers. The female lays five or six white eggs, speckled with dark purplish red.

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## WARBLER, YELLOW-BILLED CHIFF- CHAFF.

### MELODIOUS WILLOW WREN.

*SYLVA HIPPOLAIS, Temm.*

Although this beautiful songster cannot be said to be found in England, a specimen was shot in June, 1848, at Eythorne, near Dover. It is well known on the Continent, inhabiting the gardens and hedgerows of those portions of the coasts of France and Holland that are immediately opposite to our own, and appearing in fact to be distributed generally over Europe, from Sweden to the shores of the Mediterranean. Its mode of nesting differs from

that of the other Warblers. The nest, instead of being placed near or on the ground, is built at a considerable elevation, sometimes near the top of tall bushes or young trees. Instead of being dome-shaped, like that of the other species, it is open at the top. It is composed of grass, bents, and long hairs, interlaid and wound together, and lined with fine roots, hair, wool, &c. The eggs are of a pale purplish white, speckled with dark or purplish red, the ground colour differing a little from that of the Willow Warbler. The food of this species consists chiefly of various caterpillars and small insects.

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## WARBLER, DARTFORD.

*SYLVIA PROVINCIALIS, Temm.*

This species is a permanent resident in England, occurring on commons in several of the southern counties. It was first noticed in 1773, by Dr. Latham, who procured a pair from Bexley Heath, near Dartford, in Kent, from which place it has taken its English name. It inhabits furze thickets, among which it glides with the greatest ease and activity, flying with short jerks in the manner of the Whinchat and Whitethroat. It feeds upon flies, grasshoppers, and other insects, which it frequently seizes on the wing. Its nest, which is loosely constructed, like that of the

Whitethroat, is placed in the centre of the thickest furze bush. The eggs, which are rather smaller than those of the Whitethroat, are of a greenish white, freckled all over with olivaceous brown and ash colour.

## WARBLER, GARDEN.

GREATER PETTY-CHAPS.

*SYLVIA HORTENSIS, Flem.*

This species arrives about the end of April, and is generally dispersed in England as well as the south of Scotland. It occurs chiefly in thickets, plantations, woods, and gardens, and like the rest of its shy tribe is more often heard than seen, usually singing from the very centre of some close retreat. The nest, which is frequently placed on the ground, is loosely constructed, and the eggs, from four to six in number, are of a dull white colour, dotted with light brown and grey spots. It feeds on insects and worms.

## WARBLER, GRASSHOPPER.

GRASSHOPPER LARK.

*SYLVIA LOCUSTELLA, Penn.*

This slender and elegantly-formed, but plainly-coloured, little bird arrives in England from the

middle to the end of April, and is generally dispersed in this country, but is not numerous. It has also been found in a few instances in the south of Scotland. It frequents low and damp situations, overgrown with furze, brambles, and underwood. It is remarkably shy and timid, and is seldom seen upon the wing, generally remaining shrouded in the middle of the thickest furze, which it threads with the rapidity of a mouse. It builds in the closest brambles and thick underwood. The nest is composed of dry grass, lined with similar but finer materials. The eggs are white, closely freckled with carmine spots.

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## WARBLER, GREAT SEDGE.

### THRUSH-LIKE WARBLER.

*SYLVIA TURDOIDES, Temm.*

A specimen of this (the largest European) Warbler was shot three or four miles west of Newcastle, near the village of Swalwill, in May, 1847, since which time it has been met with in two or three instances in England. In its habits resembling the Reed Warbler, it frequents those banks near water which are overgrown with reeds and rushes, where it seeks its food, consisting of beetles, flies, &c. Its general appearance, and its mode of nesting, closely resemble those of the Reed Warbler. The nest, which is found in the same

localities, is suspended from the reeds in a similar manner. The eggs, of which there are four or five, are of a pale greenish white, spotted and speckled with ash grey and reddish brown. This species is abundant in the marshes of Holland during summer; it also visits Germany, Belgium, and the low flat lands of France, even those as near us as Calais.

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## WARBLER, ORPHEAN.

*SYLVIA ORPHEA, Gould.*

The Zoologist of 1849, gives an account of a specimen of this bird which was shot in a small plantation near Wetherby, in Yorkshire. Its habits resemble those of the Whitethroat. In Italy it is a summer visitor, as it is also in Switzerland and France, inhabiting in the latter country the forests and dry districts of Lorraine and Provence. It feeds on small insects and berries. The nest, which is large and open, is occasionally placed among blocks of stone on the ground, but bushes and other situations are frequently chosen. The outside is composed of small twigs and a few leaves, entwined with long bents of grass and loose horse-hairs. The eggs, four or five in number, are white, tinged with pale green, and dotted with small spots and specks of reddish yellow and light brown.

## WARBLER, REED.

## REED WREN.

SYLVIA ARUNDINACEA, *Penn.*

This species is distinguished by having its upper part of a uniform tint—the common Sedge Warbler being marked with dusky spots. It arrives in the end of April, and departs in September. It is dispersed over the southern and middle parts of England, but is confined to such localities as afford proper covert, namely, wet ditches and fens, the margins of rivers and pools that are overgrown with reeds and tall aquatic plants. Its song, which is loud and cheerful, is much diversified, and is sometimes heard at night. It forms its nest of the seed-tops of reeds and long grass, lines it with the finer parts of the first-named materials, and suspends it between a few adjoining stems. It is made so deep as entirely to conceal the bird when sitting. The eggs, four or five in number, are of a greenish white, blotched and spotted with brown and oil green.

## WARBLER, RUFUS SEDGE.

SYLVIA GALACTOTES, *Temm.*

Of the habits of this species of Warbler little appears to be known. Only one instance is re-

corded of its capture in England, namely, one which was shot near Brighton, in 1854. This species was first obtained at Gibraltar, and others afterwards at Algesiras. It is found in various parts of Spain, particularly in the valley of Andalusia, nesting among the shrubs of oleander. The eggs are of a pale greenish white ground colour, spotted and speckled over with two shades of darker greenish brown, very similar in colour to those of the Reed Warbler. Its food is said to be grasshoppers and other insects.

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## WARBLER, SAVI'S.

*SYLVIA LUSCINIODES, Temm.*

Several examples of this rare species of Warbler have been obtained in England. Savi's Warbler resembles the Reed Warbler in form, with the exception of the tail, which is longer and more fan-like in shape. Its plumage is similar in colour to that of the Nightingale. This species is rare even in the south of Enrope, and was first noticed by Savi. Like the Reed and Sedge Warblers, it frequents moist and shaded situations among reeds and bushes near water, concealing itself among the stalks and foliage. It feeds on worms and insects. Its nest, which is generally placed



near the bottom of a tuft of thick coarse herbage, and well concealed, is composed of coarse grass, and lined with hair. The female lays four or five eggs of a pale yellowish brown, freckled with darker brown.

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### WARBLER, SEDGE.

*SYLVIA PHRAGMITIS, Selby.*

The Sedge Warbler, which is rather common in many parts of England, but rare in Scotland, arrives the end of April, and departs the beginning of October. Its favourite resorts are places overgrown with reeds and other tall aquatic plants, among which it searches for its insect food and places its nest, which is bulky, loosely constructed of grasses, and lined with finer materials. The eggs, five in number, are of a greenish white colour, dotted with light brown.

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### WARBLER, WILLOW.

*SYLVIA TORCHILUS, Penn.*

The Willow Warbler, which is very generally dispersed, arrives in England early in April, and

departs about the end of September. It inhabits woods, thickets, and gardens. Its song is soft, mellow, and extremely pleasing, the first notes prolonged, the rest gradually falling and becoming shorter. The nest, which is composed of moss and dry grass, and lined with feathers, is of an oval shape, with a small opening near the top. The female lays six or seven white eggs, with numerous reddish brown spots towards the larger end, and with a few specks dispersed over the rest of the surface. It is said to be common throughout the greater part of Europe; and according to the accounts of Naturalists, is also found in North America. Its food consists of insects.

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## WARBLER, WOOD.

SYLVIA SIBILLATRIX, *Flem.*

This species is found in most parts of England, and the south of Scotland. It arrives about the end of April, and departs towards the end of September. It frequents natural woods and plantations, and is seldom seen in hedges or brushwood, like the Willow Warbler. The nest, which is usually placed on the ground amongst the herbage, is externally constructed of dry grass, dead leaves,

and moss, and lined with fine grass and hair. The eggs are six in number, white, with numerous purplish red spots over the whole surface, but confluent and forming a zone towards the larger end. Its food consists of insects and their larvæ, principally of those kinds that feed upon the foliage of trees.

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## WAXWING, BOHEMIAN.

### WAXEN CHATTERER.

#### BOMBYCILLA GARRULA, *Flem.*

This species is said to be generally dispersed in winter over the Continent, but in summer it retires northward. It is only an occasional or accidental visitor in Great Britain, appearing in winter generally in flocks, and feeding on the berries of the hawthorn and mountain ash. The Waxwing is a rare bird in France and Provence, still more rare in Italy, and it never crosses the Mediterranean Sea. It is found, however, in various parts of Asia, Europe, and North America, along the mountainous range skirting the North Pacific Ocean. Although the migratory habits of this bird are well known, and many of the localities

which it frequents have been recorded by various writers, no one seems to have had any certain information as to its true home, or the country wherein it breeds, till about the year 1858, when Mr. Wolley first introduced the eggs from Finland. The nest, which is fixed on the fork of a branch, eight or ten feet from the ground, is composed of dry stalks of grass, and the inside is lined with very fine stalks of the same material. The eggs, of which there are three or four, are of a dingy bluish white, marked with spots and blotches of black of various sizes and shades.

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## WHEATEAR, THE.

*SYLVIA ŒNANTHE, Penn.*

The Wheatear is one of the earliest of our summer visitants, arriving about the middle of March. It is generally dispersed, betaking itself to sandy downs, pastures, and stony slopes, both on the coast and in the interior. It is a very lively and active bird, hopping along with great celerity. Its food consists of insects, worms, and small testaceous mollusca. It has a short, lively, and pleasantly modulated song, which is heard sometimes when it is perched on a rock, wall, or turf, and more frequently while hovering in the air, or during its short flights. The nest, which is composed of

grass, roots, and moss, with a lining of hair, wool, and feathers, is placed in a hole, under a stone, in a wall, &c. The eggs, five or six in number, are of a pale greenish blue. Two broods are reared in the year. On the South Downs, where they collect in great numbers in autumn, these birds, which are esteemed delicious fare, are caught with nooses placed between two turfs.

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## WHIMBREL.

NUMENIUS PHAEOPUS, *Penn.*

This species is common on some parts of our coast during its passage northward, chiefly frequenting sandy pastures. It appears again on the coast in autumn, and many remain along the shores in England all the winter. It has also been found breeding in Shetland. Its habits are very similar to those of the Curlew, but its cry is less loud and modulated. Its eggs, of which there are four, are coloured like those of the Curlew. Neither this species, nor the Curlew, although very extensively distributed, occur in America, where, however, there is a bird so similar to the Whimbrel as to have generally been confounded with it.

## WHINCHAT.

*SYLVIA RUBETRA, Penn.*

The Whinchat, which is a migratory bird, leaves us in September and returns in April. It is generally dispersed over this country, occurring here and there in pastures, chiefly in hilly and upland parts, and also in low tracts overgrown with small shrubs. It has a short, modulated, cheerful song, which is heard either when the bird is perched, or is fluttering in the air. The nest is concealed among shrubs and herbage, and is composed of grasses, fibrous roots, and moss, with a lining of finer fibres and hair. The eggs, of which there are four or five, are of a uniform light greyish blue, sometimes marked with brownish red dots, but generally unspotted. Worms and insects are the common food of this bird.

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## WHITETHROAT, COMMON.

*SYLVIA CINEREA, Penn.*

The Whitethroats arrive in England the end of April or beginning of May, and depart in September. They frequent hedges, thickets, and gardens, and are extremely restless and petulant, flitting about with a rapid flight, and often hovering on the wing, emitting at the same time their

peculiar song, which is short and lively, but not remarkably pleasant. The Whitethroat feeds on insects, larvæ, and soft fruits. The nest, usually placed among brambles, briars, or rank herbaceous plants, is elegantly but loosely constructed of withered stems of goosegrass, lined with finer filaments and hair. The eggs, generally five in number, are of a greenish white, spotted and freckled with greyish green and purplish grey. The young often leave the nest before they are well able to fly, particularly if disturbed.

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## WHITETHROAT, LESSER.

SYLVIA SYLVELLA, *Penn.*

This bird arrives and departs about the same periods as the rest of its species. It is uncommon in the south of Scotland, and less common than the other species of Whitethroat in any part of England. It feeds on insects, larvæ, and small fruits, and frequents garden hedges and thickets. It is extremely active and shy, and has a short and not unpleasant warble. The nest, which is placed among briars or herbage, is composed of the stems and leaves of slender grasses, rather loosely interwoven, with a lining of fine straws, fibrous roots, and hair. The eggs, usually five in number, are of a greyish white, spotted and patched with light grey and brown.

## WOODCOCK.

SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA, *Lin.*

The Woodcocks arrive from the northern parts of the Continent the beginning of October. They are generally dispersed in Great Britain, Scotland, and Ireland, frequenting marshy places, brooks, and ditches, generally in woods and thickets, or by hedges. Their flight is more direct and sedate than that of the Snipe. Many pairs have of late years bred in this country, and take their departure in March and April. Their eggs, generally four in number, are of a yellowish white hue, clouded and spotted with grey and reddish brown.

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## WOODPECKER, GREAT BLACK.

PICUS MARTIUS, *Lin.*

The Black Woodpecker is found among the birds of France and Provence, and is not uncommonly met with in the pine forests of Switzerland, Savoy, and the Tyrol. In winter it occasionally appears in the vicinity of Rome. It is a native of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, and is



found in Germany, whence it extends to the most northern parts of Russia and Siberia. In England it has been met with only in a few instances. These birds, living in or near woods, are of a retiring and shy disposition, hiding themselves from view on the approach of an intruder, by passing to that side of the tree or branch which is farthest from the disturber of their repose. They search the bark of trees, or decayed parts, for any insects that may be concealed in the fissures, and in default of such food will feed on nuts, seeds, or berries. During the night these birds occupy the holes so frequently observed in trees, in which, at the usual season, the female deposits her eggs, three in number, and of a white smooth and shining surface.

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## WOODPECKER, GREEN.

*PICUS VIRIDIS, Lin.*

This is a common inhabitant of all the wooded parts of England and Scotland, where it is permanently resident. Besides searching trees for larvæ and insects, it often betakes itself to the ground to seek for other insects, and particularly ants and their eggs. It lays its eggs in trees, perforating, for their reception, a round hole, sometimes

of considerable depth. For this purpose it selects those trees which are in a decaying state, or the softer kinds of wood, such as the aspen, to which it is very partial. When thus engaged, the strokes of its bill are repeated with such velocity that the head is scarcely perceived to move, and the sound, it is said, may be heard distinctly at the distance of half a mile. It makes no nest. The eggs, four or five in number, are of a bluish white hue.

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## WOODPECKER, GREATER SPOTTED.

PICUS MAJOR, *Lin.*

The Greater Spotted Woodpecker is extensively distributed in England and Scotland, as well as in Ireland, in which country it is permanently resident. It frequents woods and plantations, especially those of beech and pine, feeding on the insects and larvæ which it obtains in the decayed bark and wood. The eggs, which are placed on chips of wood in a hole formed in a tree, are generally five in number, pure white and glossy.

## WOODPECKER, LESSER SPOTTED.

PICUS MINOR, *Lin.*

This species occurs in most of the southern, eastern, and midland counties of England. Its habits are similar to those of the last-named species. It usually prefers the higher branches of trees, although it by no means confines itself to them, and is so intent on searching for its food that it pays little attention to a person coming to watch or shoot it. It produces occasionally an extraordinarily loud, rapid, vibratory noise, somewhat resembling that made by the boring of a large auger in hard wood, but its ordinary voice is a feeble squeak several times repeated. The eggs, five in number and of a pinkish white, are deposited in the bottom of a hole.

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WREN, COMMON.TROGLODYTES VULGARIS, *Flem.*

The Wren is found in all parts of this kingdom, inhabiting even the northern isles of Scotland, in which it is a constant resident. It frequents stone walls, fragments of rocks, thickets of gorse, hedge banks, woods, and gardens. Its food consists of

insects, small seeds, and soft fruits. Its song, which is full, rich, and mellow, is surprisingly loud. Its flight is rapid, even, and short. Although not essentially a climber, it clings to perpendicular surfaces sideways, and is often seen on trees. It builds its nest, which is very large, and lined in the interior with feathers, under the thatch or other covering of outhouses, against the stem of an ivy-clad tree, or in some cavity under an impending branch or prominent piece of rock. The materials of which the nest is constructed externally are always adapted in colour to the situation it is to occupy. Thus, on trees overrun with ivy, the outer coat is entirely composed of the fresh and greener mosses, but on a stump or rock, grey with lichens and without grass, it will be found to be built either of those substances, or of others coinciding in general effect. The eggs, from six to eight in number, are of a yellowish white, speckled, principally at the larger end, with reddish brown.

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## WRYNECK.

*YUNX TORQUILLA, Lin.*

The Wryneck, which is one of the most beautiful of our native birds, arrives from the middle to the end of April, generally preceding the Cuckoo, and disperses over the country in search of insects,

larvæ, and ants, which it seizes by means of its tongue, in the manner of the Woodpeckers. It is remarkable for a habit of twisting its neck, with a slow undulatory motion, turning its head back and closing its eyes, whence its common name. It breeds in the holes of decayed trees, laying nine or ten pure white eggs upon the bare rotten wood. It is said to be found as far north as Sweden, is common in the southern and midland provinces of Europe, but very rare in Holland. It also occurs in Asia and Africa, where probably it takes up its winter residence.

THE END.

## B

	PAGE
Bittern, American . . .	5
„ Common . . .	6
„ Little . . .	7
Blackbird, The . . .	8
Black-headed Bunting . . .	10
„ throated Diver . . .	43
„ headed Gull . . .	97
Black Grouse . . .	91
Black-winged Stilt . . .	216
Black Guillemot . . .	94
„ Stork . . .	219
„ Tern . . .	227
Black-tailed Godwit . . .	77
Blue-throated Warbler . . .	249
Blue, or Tom Tit . . .	239
Bonaparte's Gull . . .	98
Brambling, The . . .	9
Brent Goose . . .	80
Broad-billed Sandpiper . . .	195
Brunnich's Guillemet . . .	95
Buffel-headed Duck . . .	49
Buff-backed Heron . . .	114
„ breasted Sandpiper . . .	196
Bullfinch, The . . .	9
Bulwer's Petrel . . .	159
Bunting, Blackheaded . . .	10
„ Cirl . . .	11
„ Common . . .	12
„ Lapland . . .	„
„ Ortolan . . .	13



	PAGE		PAGE
Cuckoo, Great Spotted . . .	37	Duck, Shieldrake, Common . . .	60
„ Yellow-billed . . .	38	„ „ Ruddy . . .	61
Curlew, Common . . .	39	„ „ Shoveller . . .	„
„ Esquimaux . . .	40	„ Steller's . . .	62
		„ Surf Scoter . . .	59
		„ Teal, Common . . .	62
		„ „ Tufted . . .	63
		„ Velvet Scoter . . .	59
		„ Wild . . .	65
		Dunlin, The . . .	66
		E	
		Eagle, Golden . . .	67
		„ Owl . . .	147
		„ Spotted . . .	68
		„ White-tailed . . .	69
		Eared Grebe . . .	86
		Egret, Little . . .	70
		Egyptian Goose . . .	81
		Eider, Duck . . .	50
		Esquimaux, Curlew . . .	40
		F	
		Falcon, Gyr Falcon, Green-	
		land or Iceland	
		Falcon . . .	70
		„ Peregrine . . .	71
		„ Red-footed . . .	72
		Fieldfare, The . . .	„
		Fly-catcher, Pied . . .	73
		„ Spotted . . .	74
		G	
		Gadwall, Duck . . .	51



	PAGE		PAGE
Gannet, The . . .	75	Great White Heron . . .	116
Garden Warbler . . .	253	Grebe, Eared . . .	86
Garganey Duck . . .	52	„ Great Crested . . .	„
Glaucous Gull . . .	100	„ Little . . .	87
Godwit, Bar-tailed . . .	76	„ Red-necked . . .	88
„ Black-tailed . . .	77	„ Slavonian . . .	„
Golden Eagle . . .	67	Green Cormorant . . .	26
„ Eyed Duck . . .	52	Greenfinch, The . . .	89
„ Oriole . . .	141	Greenshank, The . . .	„
Goldfinch, The . . .	76	Green Woodpecker . . .	266
Gold-vented Thrush . . .	235	Grey Lag-Goose . . .	82
Goosander, The . . .	78	„ Wagtail . . .	245
Goose, Bean . . .	79	„ headed Wagtail . . .	246
„ Bernacle . . .	80	„ Hen . . .	91
„ Brent . . .	„	Griffin Vulture . . .	245
„ Canada . . .	81	Grosbeak, Pine, or Hawfinch . . .	90
„ Egyptian . . .	„	Grouse, Black, Blackgame . . .	
„ Grey-lag . . .	82	„ or Black Cock, . . .	
„ Pink-footed . . .	83	„ Female Grey hen . . .	91
„ Red-breasted . . .	„	„ Red . . .	92
„ Spur-winged . . .	84	„ White or Ptarmigan . . .	93
„ White-fronted . . .	85	Guillemot, Black . . .	94
Goshawk, The . . .	„	„ Brunnich's . . .	95
Grasshopper Warbler . . .	253	„ Common . . .	96
Great Auk . . .	2	„ Ringed . . .	„
„ Black-headed Gull . . .	101	Gull-billed Tern . . .	229
„ Black Woodpecker . . .	265	Gull, Black-headed . . .	97
„ Bustard . . .	16	„ Buffon's Skua . . .	98
„ Crested Grebe . . .	86	„ Bonaparte's . . .	„
„ Grey Shrike . . .	205	„ Common . . .	99
„ „ Snipe . . .	210	„ „ Skua . . .	100
„ „ Titmouse . . .	241	„ Glaucus . . .	„
„ Northern Diver . . .	42	„ Great Black-headed . . .	101
„ Shearwater . . .	203	„ Herring . . .	102
„ Spotted Cockoo . . .	37	„ Iceland . . .	103
„ Spotted Woodpecker . . .	267	„ Ivory . . .	„

	PAGE		PAGE
Gull, Kittiwake . . .	104	J	
„ Laughing . . .	105	Jackdaw, The . . .	121
„ Lesser Black-backed . . .	106	Jack Snipe . . .	211
„ Little . . .	„	Jay, The . . .	122
„ Masked . . .	107		
„ Pomarine Skua . . .	„	K	
„ Richardson's Skua . . .	108	Kestrel, The . . .	123
„ Sabine's . . .	109	King Duck . . .	54
„ Wedge-tailed . . .	110	Kingfisher, Common . . .	123
Gyr, Falcon . . .	70	„ Belled . . .	124
		Kite, Common . . .	125
H		„ Swallow-tailed . . .	126
Harlequin Duck . . .	53	Kittiwake Gull . . .	104
Harrier, Ash Coloured, or		Knot, The . . .	127
Montagu's . . .	110		
„ Hen . . .	111	L	
„ Marsh . . .	112	Lapland Bunting . . .	12
Hawfinch, or Grosbeak . . .	114	Lark, Crested . . .	128
Hawk, Sparrow . . .	113	„ Shore . . .	129
Hawk, Owl . . .	148	„ Short-toed . . .	„
Heron, Buff-backed . . .	114	„ Sky . . .	130
„ Common . . .	115	„ Wood . . .	„
„ Great White . . .	116	Laughing Gull . . .	105
„ Night . . .	117	Lesser Black-backed Gull . . .	106
„ Purple . . .	„	„ Tern . . .	229
„ Squacco . . .	118	„ White-throat . . .	264
Hobby, The . . .	119	„ Spotted Woodpecker . . .	268
Honey, Buzzard . . .	19	Linnet, Common . . .	131
Hooded Merganser . . .	137	„ Mountain . . .	133
Hoopoe, The . . .	119	Little Auk . . .	3
		„ Bittern . . .	7
I		„ Bustard . . .	17
Ibis, Glossy . . .	121	„ Crake . . .	28
Iceland Gull . . .	103	„ Egret . . .	70
Ivory Gull . . .	„		



	PAGE		PAGE
Pigeon, Passenger . . .	166	Red Grouse . . .	92
Pink-footed Goose . . .	83	Red-legged Partridge . .	158
Pintail Duck . . .	55	Red-necked Grebe . . .	88
Pipit, Meadow or Tit Lark	167	Redpole, Lesser . . .	182
„ Richard's . . .	168	„ Mealy . . .	183
„ Rock . . .	169	Redshank, Common . .	184
„ Tree . . .	„	„ Spotted . . .	„
Plover, Cream coloured,		Redstart, Black . . .	185
Courser or golden	170	„ Common . . .	186
„ Grey . . .	171	Redwing, The . . .	„
„ Kentish . . .	172	Reed Warbler, or Wren .	256
„ Lapwing or Peewit	173	Regulus, Dalmatian . .	187
„ Little-ringed . . .	„	„ Fire-crested . . .	188
„ Norfolk . . .	174	„ Golden - crested,	
„ Ringed . . .	175	or Golden-crested	
Pochard Duck . . .	56	Wren . . .	189
Polish Swan . . .	224	Ring Dove . . .	46
Pomerine Gull . . .	107	„ Ouzel . . .	145
Pratincole, Austrian . .	176	Robin, The . . .	190
Puffin, The . . .	„	Rock Dove . . .	46
Purple Martin . . .	135	Roller, The . . .	191
		Rook, The . . .	192
Q		Rose-coloured Pastor . .	159
Quail, Andalusian . . .	177	Rough-legged Buzzard . .	20
„ Common . . .	178	Royston Crow . . .	36
„ Virginian, or Colin	„	Ruddy Shieldrake . . .	61
		Ruff, The . . .	193
R		Ruffed Bustard . . .	17
Rail, Land, or Corncrake .	179	Rufous Sedge Warbler . .	256
„ Water . . .	180		
Raven, The . . .	181	S	
Razor Bill, The . . .	182	Sabine's Gull . . .	109
Red-breasted Goose . . .	83	„ Snipe . . .	211
Red-breasted Merganser .	137	Sanderling, The . . .	194
Red-crested Duck . . .	57	Squacco Heron . . .	118
Red-footed Falcon . . .	72	Sandpiper, Bartram's . .	194



	PAGE		PAGE
Sandpiper, Broad-billed . . .	195	Snowy Owl . . .	152
„ Buff-breasted . . .	196	Song Thrush . . .	237
„ Common, or		Sooty Tern . . .	232
Summer Snipe	197	Sparrow, House . . .	212
„ Curlew . . .	„	„ Tree . . .	213
„ Green . . .	198	Spoonbill, The . . .	214
„ Pectoral . . .	199	Spotted Crake . . .	29
„ Purple . . .	„	„ Eagle . . .	68
„ Spotted . . .	200	„ Flycatcher . . .	74
„ Wood . . .	201	„ Redshank . . .	184
„ Yellow-shanked	202	„ Sandpiper . . .	200
Sandwich Tern . . .	232	Spur-winged Goose . . .	84
Savi's Warbler . . .	257	Starling, Common . . .	214
Sclavonian Grebe . . .	88	„ Red-winged . . .	215
Scaup, Duck . . .	57	Steller's Duck . . .	62
Scops-eared Owl . . .	151	Stock Dove . . .	47
Sedge Warbler . . .	258	Stilt, Blackwinged . . .	216
Shearwater, The . . .	202	Stint, Little . . .	217
„ Great . . .	203	„ North American . . .	„
„ Manks . . .	204	„ Temminck's . . .	218
Shore Lark . . .	129	Stonechat, The . . .	219
Short-eared Owl . . .	152	Stork, Black . . .	„
Short-toed Lark . . .	130	„ White . . .	220
Shoveller Duck . . .	61	Surf Duck . . .	59
Siskin, The . . .	207	Swallow, Chimney . . .	221
Skylark . . .	130	Swan, Bewick's . . .	222
Shrike, Great Grey . . .	205	„ Mute . . .	223
„ Red-backed . . .	„	„ Polish . . .	224
„ Woodchat . . .	206	„ Wild . . .	222
Smew, The . . .	208	Swift, The Common . . .	224
Snipe, Brown . . .	„	„ White-bellied . . .	225
„ Common . . .	209		
„ Great or Solitary . . .	210		
„ Jack . . .	211		
„ Sabine's . . .	„		
Snow Bunting . . .	14		

## T

Tawny Owl . . .	153
Teal, Common . . .	62

	PAGE
Temminck's Stint . . .	218
Tengmalm's Owl . . .	154
Tern, Arctic . . .	226
„ Black . . .	227
„ Caspian . . .	"
„ Common . . .	228
„ Gull-billed . . .	229
„ Lesser . . .	"
„ Noddy . . .	230
„ Roseate . . .	231
„ Sandwich . . .	232
„ Sooty . . .	"
„ Whiskered . . .	233
„ White-winged black . . .	234
Thrush, Gold-vented . . .	235
„ Missel . . .	"
„ Rock . . .	236
„ Song . . .	237
„ White's . . .	238
Titmouse, Bearded . . .	"
„ Blue, or Tom . . .	239
„ Cole . . .	240
„ Crested . . .	"
„ Great . . .	241
„ Long-tailed . . .	242
„ Marsh . . .	243
Tree Sparrow . . .	213
Tufted Duck . . .	63
Turnstone, The . . .	243
Turtle Dove . . .	48

## V

Velvet Duck . . .	59
Vulture, Egyptian . . .	244
„ Griffon . . .	245

## W

	PAGE
Wagtail, Grey . . .	245
„ Grey-headed . . .	246
„ Pied . . .	247
„ Ray's . . .	"
„ White . . .	248
Warbler, Black-cap . . .	249
„ Blue-throated . . .	"
„ Chiff-chaff . . .	250
„ „ Yellow-billed, or melodious Willow Wren . . .	251
„ Dartford . . .	252
„ Garden . . .	253
„ Grasshopper . . .	"
„ Great-sedge . . .	254
„ Orphean . . .	255
„ Reed, or Reed Wren . . .	256
„ Rufous-Sedge . . .	"
„ Savi's . . .	257
„ Sedge . . .	258
„ Willow . . .	"
„ Wood . . .	259
Water Ouzel . . .	145
Waxwing, The . . .	260
Wedge-tailed Gull . . .	110
Wheatear, The . . .	261
Whimbrel, The . . .	262
Whinchat . . .	263
White-bellied Swift . . .	225
White-footed Goose . . .	85
White-tailed Eagle . . .	69
White Stork . . .	220
White-winged Crossbill . . .	34

